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Canada's

Weekly Newsmagazine

June 5, 2000 www.macleans.ca \$4.50

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The Rocket
1921-2000

The Maclean's
**HEALTH
REPORT**

The Annual Ranking

THE BEST HEALTH CARE



THE WINNERS

- North/West Vancouver
- Mississauga
- Victoria
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- Moncton
- Lethbridge

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From the
Editor



Measuring the quality of health care

In 1996, Prime Minister Jean Chretien observed that the way Montreal does the annual ranking of universities is "exactly what we would like to do with medicine." In the current issue, with strong support from an independent national agency and our own resources, *Maclean's* moves much closer to a comprehensive ranking of health care in Canada. For the first time, data supplied by the Canadian Institute for Health Information and Statistics (Canada) have been used to evaluate the availability of care and investments in 50 health regions, covering 85 per cent of the Canadian people. We believe it is an important step along the road to greater accountability in a system that annually costs Canadians \$86 billion.

In a nutshell, the more affluent and better educated regions also enjoy the best health services. This means that suburbs of Vancouver and Toronto rank highly, as do cities such as Victoria, Edmonton and Ottawa. But there is also a rewarding lesson for more remote regions seeking better care of your health and having better local administrators can make a difference.

A good example is the sprawling, 17,000-bed Health Region in south-western Alberta, created on Lethbridge, but stretching from the Rockies up to the Red River. It is first place with Moncton, N.B., in the category ranking health regions with a largely rural component (and both ranked 17th overall in the country). In addition to awarding 14 domestic health boards in the CIBC/Health Canada, there has been a special push for long-term care, to reduce pressure on acute-care facilities.

Even administrators who live poorly in the rankings understand why. Joe Moss, president of the Sudbury Regional Hospital, whose sprawling region placed 48th out of 50, notes that many parents there are in poor health even before they have to seek help. "We know for a fact that in the North the population generally spends a lot more ill."

Overturning the second annual ranking was *Maclean's* Assistant Managing Editor Robert Marshall, who worked closely with CIBC's director of analysis, Jonathan Zelinka, and statistician David Anderson at the University of Toronto. *Maclean's* Chief photography researcher on the cover package, designed by Art Director Nick Burnett and Assistant Art Director Eric Leggo.



Prime Minister Jean Chretien, with wife Aline, and daughters Dana, Brenda and Julia, Marshall (right)



Robert Lewis

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on from the Editor

Newsroom Notes

Special honour

It was a night to celebrate magazines—and it was a good night for *Maclean's*. The National Magazine Awards Foundation bestowed its Outstanding Achievement Award on Peter C. Newman, the founding editor of *Maclean's* as a newsmagazine.

In a million words or more for the magazine, and in his 20 books, Newman has shaken governments and the Canadian business establishment. He fought fiercely to preserve a special place for Canadian magazines. Had he not assumed the editorship of the magazine in 1971 (a post he held for 11 years) and converted it to a weekly in 1978, *Maclean's* likely would not have survived. And as a refugee from the horrors of Hitler, he brought the passion of a convert to his new country, holding it up to close scrutiny when it needed that, providing comfort in times of national strife. And he continues to write monthly.

In all, the foundation awarded gold and silver medals to 31 categories. *Maclean's* staff members who received honorable mentions: Assistant Managing Editor Ann Dwyer, Johnstone and staff for the annual survey ranking (two categories), Managing Editor Geoffrey Stevens and contributors for a July 1 historical special. Senior Writer Jane O'Hara for an investigative piece on actor Bill Reid and Sports Editor James Duncan for a profile of Wayne Gretzky. Seventy-Night topped the field with seven gold winners, and *Charlevoix*, our new publication, was named magazine of the year.

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The

I can only imagine the wrenching pain that Prince William and his family endured with his mother's death ("Coming of age," *Covers* May 22). That said, don't expect me to care about his every hormonal twinge just because of who he is.

Brana Shand, New Westminster, B.C.



I hope that Prince William's "independent streak" will mean that he won't expect to have his cake and eat it, too. Young royals fail to realize that there is a price to be paid for their privileged lives. Too bad Queen Elizabeth II's children brought the grand House of Windsor down.

Oliver Tscherning, Berlin

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Greece has been a republic since 1975, by choice of the Greek people. There is no such person as Prince Pavlos of Greece ("The golden roach of Europe"), and this family should not be rechristened as "roach."

Abstract: *Staphylococcus aureus* is a common pathogen that causes a wide range of infections. The purpose of this study was to determine the prevalence of *S. aureus* in the nasal cavity of healthy individuals. A total of 100 individuals were recruited from a community health center. Nasal swabs were collected and cultured on methicillin-resistant *S. aureus* (MRSA) agar. The results showed that 45% of the individuals had MRSA in their nasal cavity. This study highlights the importance of monitoring the prevalence of MRSA in the community.

Once upon a time, I used to read and enjoy some of Allan Fotheringham's articles. But in recent years, I have found none of his writing to be timely and of little value. A case in point is the column in the May 22 issue titled "Sinking the Queen Morn." This was not a satire but a boonish attempt to be funny. Examples of his brilliant power of description are "poofy ferrets," "dreaded grandchildren," "suckers," "Dagobert of North," "Kookaburra-Canadian Alliance," etc. I am not a great fan of the Royal Family, but as I see it, by comparison, the Queen continues to stand on a pedestal while Fotheringham sneers at the crown.

G. E. Rane, Hamilton, Ill.

As a passenger who has flown more than a million miles in my lifetime, the mystery of it with Canadian Airlines and its various incarnations, I avoided Air Canada whenever possible ("Unfriendly skies," *Business*, May 22). Why? The service and passenger concern shown by Canadian was always outstanding. Air Canada constantly demonstrated nothing but contempt for passengers. Now, we have the inferior airline, from the passengers' point of view, taking over the superior one. Is something wrong with this picture? Air Canada CEO Robert Milton certainly does not help: he could give arrogant lessons to any Prime Minister.

E. B. Cramer, Victoria

Last June, I was diagnosed with leukemia, and I should know that the less capable couldn't handle running. When I found out I needed a bone marrow transplant, I learned I was only 10 years old and I knew I might die. The nurses were kind to those people who gave me medicines, they were friends. For all right now, I'm going through the transplant and I'm off my rejection drugs. I have a good view of things because when I'm done writing this letter, I will take my IV, go down the elevator to my floor, probably walk by at least one nurse and go to my room. I thank Barbara Angelis for convincing me when she does not know enough about me and jumping to conclusions before she knows the whole story ("Why we need private medicine," April 27).

Jeffrey Casadei, Dartmouth, NH 0

As a Canadian Airlines employee, I find the recent flurry of negative articles about Canada's airline industry most irritating. Charter companies have always crammed passengers into their seats and squeezed older, less-able-bodied passengers. This is how they can afford the dirt-cheap prices that Canadians seem to crave. What does the public expect? The government refused to prop up Canadian Airlines; hence, a monopoly exists. Luckily, Air Canada has to reduce domestic capacity in order to make a profit. We can only hope we can

Wick, Brevard, Brevard, and Brevard

I was relieved when Foreign Minister Lloyd Austin announced that Canadian troops would be going to Somalia only in a small logistics capacity ("Guns and death," *World*, May 22). For many years, our government has followed a come-and-see, find-out-before policy regarding UN peacekeeping. Our regular-force soldiers have been matched extremely thin and we have only been able to honour our UN commitments by using large numbers of reserves. No other developed nation

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Abstract

1. [Introduction](#)

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Edited by Anthony Wilson-Smith
with Shaula Dwyer

'Ma'am, your Herb Strewer is here'

Prince Charles recently revived a 500-year-old tradition by appointing 20-year-old **Caitlin Finch** Harper to the Prince of Wales (benefit) include a salary of \$5,600 and a gold brooch. That has created interest in some of Great Britain's other ancient titles. Here are some other unusual positions from *Keys of the Kingdom* by **Alastair Bruce** (McArthur & Co., \$60).
 • **Queen's Remembrancer:** Before computers and Palm personal organizers, **King Henry** created the office in 1154 "to put the Lord Treasurer and the Barons of the Court of Exchequer in remembrance of such things as were to be called upon and dealt with for the benefit of the Crown." Each year, the Queen's Remembrancer collects two knives, six horseshoes and 64 nails for two properties rented to the City of London: one in 1211 and the other in 1235. The remembrancer has a "day job" that is more onerous—he's a judge.
 • **Queen's Champion, Lord of the Manor of Scrivelsby:** The title and lands were given to **Robert Marmion** by **William the Conqueror** just after the Battle of Hastings in 1066. One

term of ownership is that at every coronation, the title holder does combat with any challenger for the throne. Marmion's descendants have never been called on to fight: instead of riding in armour at coronations, they carry the banner of England.

• **Herb Strewer:** The first title holder was **Herbert Ranney**, paid \$55 per year in 1660 to place mint, lavender and other fragrant herbs wherever the monarch travelled on an effort, before the age of proper sanitation, to dispense unpleasant aromas. The title fell into abeyance after **Anne Fellows** carried out her duties at the 1821 coronation of **George IV**, but the Fellows family still claims the position in the name of the nearest unmarried daughter of the family.

Pamela Treble



Her Majesty's Remembrancer, also a judge

Overbites

"Good salads are symbols of our overall attention to detail."

—Queen's University business school dean **Margot Northey** reacts to news her university offers based on-campus meals of any international business school

"Viagra is not an aphrodisiac and has no effect on the libido. It should only be used by people with erectile dysfunction."

—**Don Seaton**, spokesman for **Pfizer Canada**, which manufactures **Viagra**, warns against youth taking it with illicit drugs

"Women's sexual difficulties are rather different from men's, even though that's not been all that clear in the literature to date."

—Vancouver researcher Dr. **Rosemary Basson** explains why **Viagra** doesn't work as well for women as for men



Over and Under Achievers

Songs in the key of strife

Special music theme **ABBA** again??
Who's Tony Now?
Day-dream Believer!!

♦ **Talies, Canadian Alliance:** Too busy burling over use of word "conservative" to go after real money—the **Libs**. More proof of your mother's wisdom: two wrongs don't make a right

♦ **Stedwell Day:** Is told by owners of song **I Can See Clearly Now**—with cap like "bright, sunny day"—to stop using it as campaign

drama. Good news! **Day-Zipper** or **Slam-Day** still available

♦ **Polytechnic '70s** revival near complete as musical based on **ABBA** opens in T.O. to **SRO**. Next, **CBC** airs arena footage of **Peter Dinklage** with host!

♦ **Treasure Study** shows they're turning off TV in favour of Web-surfing. Coach pointers of world, take back the right!

♦ **Gordon Giffin** American ambassador to Ottawa suggests new destination for **John Christian** and **Team Canada** business lineup: the U.S. South. Because **Florida** really isn't more visiting Canadians

Overview

The all-new Cpl. 'ZZ Top'

The Royal Canadian Regiment of the Canadian Forces has always been a bit unlike other military units, for starters, members are allowed to sport beards. But when a photo of Cpl. *Brandon Massey* of the Assault Pioneer Platoon of the 1st Battalion, on peacekeeping duty in Mitrovica, Kosovo, ran in many newspapers last February, he looked a bit too much like a member of the rock group ZZ Top for the liking of his superiors. As a result, they said he could keep the beard—but ordered an immediate trim to the prescribed length of one inch. Sgt. Lt.-Col. *Rejean Duchesneau*, a military spokesman, "We weren't picking on the BCLR." But rules are rules, even for a peace-keeping battle unit.

Derek Cheal



Massey shaves brightly and now smooth



Massey shaves brightly and now smooth

Gender Bender 101

Life in an 'Ovary Tower'

They call it the "Ovary Tower" at Toronto's York University. It's all eight senior positions are held by women, including the president and three vice-president posts. That is in itself a contrast to the male-dominated regimens of most Canadian universities. It's a bit of a historical accident, having this

many women at the top," says president *Lorne Marsden*, adding: "We picked the best people." Marsden, current president of the National Action Committee, on the Status of Women, says York is like the concept of equality upon which NAC was built, and the joking title an added benefit: "We don't have to discuss sports all the time."

Shawna Dupont

Overheard

Expos: steal home?

While the Montreal Expos enjoy an impressive season unfold, there are questions—again—whether they will stay in the city. In a meeting to take place this week, the club's partnership consortium, led by New York City-based *Jeffrey Loria*, was first supposed to discuss ground-breaking dates for a new stadium. But each plan will likely be postponed, and speculation is rife that Loria, who has traded with partners almost from the day he bought into the Expos last December, wants to buy diamonds out and move the team. A scandal in near bottom among major-

league teams, and Loria recently said, sarcastically, that he feels he knows most fans since there are so few of them. Expos are available only on French-language radio or the Internet, the media are rhapsodic of Loria's mooves, and partners have not completed a \$150-million recapitalization plan.

Among signs of discord, minority partner *Juan Couso* refused to have his picture taken with other partners, including Loria, on opening day, and Loria passed on a black-tie fund-raiser honoring *Jacques Minard* and *Stephen Brezofsky*, co-chairmen of the partners' consortium. (He cited family reasons for his absence.) Minard, who brought Loria in as a late-investor savior, is keeping quiet publicly, but has told friends he is angry those fed up with Loria's behavior.

Trend Watch

It was only a matter of time before young musicians uncovered the Golden Age—and Agony—of Canadian music. After years of "sampling," (recycling) grooves from the likes of *Stevie Wonder* and *Osie Redding*, pop and rap acts are now turning to Canada's own for the *Guns N' Roses* and *Golden Lightfoot* for material. Some examples:

- In 1998, *Stacy* on 54 speed-up Lightfoot's 1970 classic *If You Could Read My Mind* for the 54 sound track, and covered one of the decade's only disco hits.
- In 1998, Toronto rapper *Mansoor Fink* "We staged a comeback by shortening his name to *Mansoor* and turning the chorus with *Shrek* to *Flow Flow*, a rap cover of the *Guns N' Roses* 1989 song *Flow Flow*."
- Last month, North Carolina rapper *Elwood* released his first single, *Stacy*, using the chorus from Lightfoot's 1974 hit of the same name. Elwood, recognizing the generational limitations of his fan base, acknowledged: "Most people who hear it don't even know it's a cover."

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Overture

PASSAGES

Died: Sir John Gielgud, 96, was world-acclaimed as an actor and perhaps most of all for his voice in his 75-year acting career; it was compared to almost every classical instrument. Along with



Sir Laurence Olivier and Sir Ralph Richardson, Gielgud brought many of the greatest Shakespeare performances to the British stage. He embraced Hollywood later than his contemporaries and ended up with a remarkably eclectic film résumé: He played King Louis VII in *Richard*, won an Academy Award for his role as the butler, Hobson, in *Dudley Moore's Arthur* and played a naked Prospero in *Peter Greenaway's The Tropic of Cancer*. He played *Booth* in *Properly Said*. The openly gay Gielgud didn't receive his knighthood until 1993, after Olivier lobbied for him. He died at his country home west of London.

Died: Doris Barbara Cartland, 98, wrote 725 romance novels and was proclaimed by the *Ginette Book of Records* as the world's top-selling author. She was known for her signature style—to

the end, she sported pink frocks, jewels, white-lace fans, bunny makeup, and rode in a white Rolls-Royce. Cartland's son-in-law of Cinderella-type heroines and mostly men were devoted to secretaries from her safe, and often completed in two weeks. Her daughter *Raine* married the 8th Earl Spencer, father of Diana, Princess of Wales, making Cartland Diana's step-grandmother. She died in London after a short illness.

Died: Former Progressive Conservative cabinet minister E. David Fulton, 84, was a Rhodes Scholar whose Oxford accent, good looks and sharp intellect made him a



standout in Ottawa. He was elected to the House of Commons seven times for the Karlooska, B.C., riding. He co-edited the 1964 Fulton-Favreau formula, which recommended that most major changes to the Constitution would require unanimous consent of the provinces—thus satisfying a key demand of Quebec, among others. Fulton served under Prime Minister John Diefenbaker and felt he had no future in Ottawa after he ran against Diefenbaker for the "Tory leadership" in 1956. "I died though I was alive," Fulton recalled in 1989. After politics, he practiced law in Vancouver and

took a seat on the provincial Supreme Court. Fulton, who acknowledged an alcoholism problem, stopped down after a second drinking and driving conviction in 1981 for which he spent 14 days in jail. He died in a Vancouver hospital shortly after doctors discovered a lung clot and internal bleeding.

Donated: Retired McMaster University chemistry professor *Richard Tomlinson*, 76, gave \$64 million to his alma mater, McGill University—the largest individual gift ever to a Canadian university. Tomlinson made most of his money investing in ranching under Gennum Corp.; he said the grant is a "substantial fraction" of his worth.

Awarded: James Shapiro, a researcher at the University of Alberta, was given the Royal College of Surgeons Historical Professor award. His development of a cell-transplant procedure may ultimately free doctors' patients from daily transfusion injections.

Died: Former Queen's University principal *David Smith*, 68, established an international reputation for Queen's department of economics before his appointment as principal in 1984. He was a strong policy-maker who introduced the women's studies program. He died of cancer.

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"I AM"

THE NEXT CANADA?



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What are their allegiances in a globalized economy?

Is a Canadian culture relevant any more?

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Over to You

David Coffey



No June wedding for me

On the roof of a Brooklyn loft, with the Manhattan skyline blazing in the background, my good friend Dana wed her dreamy companion, Annie, over declarations of "love" and "forever." Although their wedding will not be officially recognized, these two women did it anyway. I've known Dana for quite a few years—she's the waitress kid you'll ever meet. No one I know seemed more destined for marriage—certainly not me.

Since her wedding last March, I began to wonder "Am I the marrying kind?" I've never considered proposing to anyone and no one has even come close to bestowing me to the Altar-of-Always. I'm all for romance (with the right guy), but even at age 30, I just don't feel that sense of urgency to put off like to many of my contemporaries.

Whether you're destined like Dana or ambivalent like myself, it's abundantly clear that marriage isn't what it used to be. Over the last hundred years, the issues of why two individuals decide to marry and who is allowed to do so have changed considerably. In parts of the United States, interracial marriage was a crime. To give a license to an interracial couple was punishable by imprisonment in 16 states until a 1967 U.S. Supreme Court ruling. Currently, gays and lesbians—who have already been granted common-law benefits in some provinces—are fighting to get same-sex marriages legalized in Canada and other Western nations.

I share their fervour even though I presently have my life invested in such advancement. The problem lies in our relationship with the straighter powers that be. At times, I wonder if we should bother trying to woo straighties into letting our unbridled twosomes use their influence. Though gays and lesbians become sadder and more popular in the public eye each year, we're still stuck between a long-

lasting trend and a half-acknowledged entity listening around the gates of popular opinion.

Many opponents to same-sex marriage believe gays and lesbians will ruin their marrying practice, which they regard as an exclusive union between a man and a woman in the eyes of their God and/or government. They fear a change in current laws will cause the whole thing to come undone, leaving them in a cesspool of singles, queers and divorcees, as I and other members of the gay and lesbian legions pose into city halls and churches in a rush to get off.

The truth is, most queers don't want to get married. Many haven't come out publicly until their 20s (with the exception of a few brave souls). I considered myself an early bird when I came out at 20. Because of that, our social adolescence often begins about 10 years later than our straight friends. While straight people plan marriages, many of us are still learning the landscape of sex and dating. Since the gay and lesbian culture I know places strong emphasis on friendship, there's less fear of being alone. And while some gay men and lesbians have children or would like us, I don't believe we feel the desire to start a family as much as our straight pals.

Though I cheer on same-sex marriages and think myself a good catch, thoughts of officially embracing married life are far back on my priority list. I've come to learn the language of "married" couples—gay or straight—their in-depth talks about renovations, compromises over housecleaning, the screaming. It's a fundamental civil right I should be free to reject.

Some of David Coffey's best friends are married. Guest submissions may be sent to comments@mccllelland.com or faxed to (416) 596-7730. We cannot respond to all queries.

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Editorial Update

Preparing for the "University Crunch"

Consider these facts:

- Between 2000 and 2010, enrolment at Canada's universities will skyrocket, as the children of the baby boomers — the echo generation — turn their sights towards a postsecondary education.
- Over the same time period, more than 20,000 of the country's 35,000 faculty will have retired or departed, forcing schools to go on a shopping spree for more than 30,000 new professors and kicking off what promises to be a brutal competition for faculty stars.

In June, Maclean's gives students and their parents the information they need to prepare for the university crunch — the intense competition that will soon exist for a limited number of spots at Canada's postsecondary schools. As universities chase the best and the brightest, many students will find themselves looking farther afield for a scholastic home.

This exclusive report, prepared by the magazine's award-winning education columnist Jim Dewar, Johnson, examines the challenges students will face in securing a spot at university, as well as emerging concerns about accessibility and the quality of higher education.

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Anthony Wilson-Smith

When Moses speaks, listen

A while ago, Moses Zuzimato—multimedia producer, CEO and executive producer of Citytv, Bravo!, MuchMusic, and a bunch of other TV outlets—was asked to speak to an international conference of media executives in Toronto. The audience, Moses knew, consisted of people who either regard television as a necessary evil, or simply as evil, period. So Moses did what Moses does when confronted with critics: he put the word up there. He typed his speech on video, ordering the cameraman to shoot close up "so my head will be about 30 inches" feet high" on a giant screen. Then, he sat under the crowd, and watched himself. In the ensuing question period, an audience educator begged him for having the "audience" to deliver his speech via video, rather than in person. Moses, in his carefully modulated speaking manner, told the truth that if he was a media educator at a media conference, he couldn't understand why someone would use the media as a tool to educate the audience, there was nothing more to say. "After that, Moses was still beaming. 'Talking about TV is beside the point: you have to see it,' he says. 'Especially when you're talking to a screen-averse group like that.'"

Anyone who knows Moses even slightly knows he has almost breathtaking self-confidence. Since people acknowledge he has a right to be so pleased with himself. Before the Prime Minister capped Bob Rubinowich as CBC president, suddenly Moses was speechless, but not so he makes too much money and has too much fun where he is. Moses will always be known for changing the look of TV by breaking down walls between performers and viewers. While travelling in Europe in the early '70s, he observed, disappointed, that "television in Germany and Italy looked exactly alike." His solution: eliminate traditional media. There is no much or City, and you see TV presented like real life, with all its dirt, lights, imperfections and spontaneity. Jagged, hard-hitting content that would cause shuffling and, spectators, screaming with hoos, and hoos (seeing an inflected on-air crew not much different from their viewers). Long before employment equity laws, Moses banned hoos from visible on-screen women making a big point of it: they mingled with everyone just the way kids do in real life.

The whole programming formula doesn't sound so carefully argued when it makes viewers feel a part of things—although it isn't always a success. If you watch the somewhat poorly rated on CKWB—a City sister station in what's called Barrie, Ont.—you get the impression it's produced by space aliens who stumbled into an existing culture they can't figure out—like a mid-life *Thelma Houston* from the Sun. But overall, the free-form style is wildly successful. One rea-

son is that Moses' techniques have been copied off by stations worldwide. As well, the *CityCity* International division has licensed stations and taught techniques everywhere from Argentina to Poland. The Toronto-based CP24 news station has also shaken up its gears. The station's multi-sectioned screens allow insurance and repairs, the time, weather, market updates and summaries of breaking news. The format was designed to resemble a computer screen—and an up to people who have it on with the sound muted still find it useful.

Now in his late 50s or so, Moses (who doesn't give his age and it only ever referred to by his name) is as revealing as ever—though not filmed says he actually appears more "serene" than he once was. In early days, he plays co-host to the first Canadian version of TED, a high-end gathering of Big Thinkers who discuss virtually everything except that which they're best known for. The side stands for technology, futurism, science, design, guests at *American TEDs* have included Bill Gates, Herbie Hancock, Dr. Jonas Salk—and Moses. A typical session might see a retired astronaut who is also an amateur photographer brandishing pictures taken in outer space, or a pacifist with a head displaying his collection of Gutenberg Bibles. The idea, Moses says, is that the "casual and slightly oblique nature of material" encourages everyone to stretch themselves intellectually. The all-Canadian version he co-hosts in Toronto with Richard Saul Wurman, TED's founder, will feature guests ranging from Frank Gehry to Anton Lippan to John Toner.

Lately, Moses has been working on applications for new stations, including a bid for a City-style station in Vancouver. He's also been thinking about Toronto's bid to host the 2008 Olympic Games. He has been, despite the odds, over the top, so Toronto could star, as he wrote the city's Olympic submission, as "Blue Sky and Oceans of a Live, Swept Upwind Television event about with a handful of other cities worldwide." Meanwhile, he's mostly focused on the Web. While many TV people fear its effect, Moses sees "the future of the Web as TV: people will find the 'Net in the air.'" He means that the technology is growing so close they'll eventually merge—and when they do, he'll be ready. The *www.Moen.com* site is a near mirror of the CP24 channel. *www.CityCity.com* will see various versions of the screen as "human" due lead them to raise the images and information as subjects worldwide. The technology doesn't yet rise for all his plans, but when that day comes, Moses will be sitting down the day after that—and the New Big Thing. There will be no winding down grade—Moses wants his position securely in the press. "Not his?" There's always too much happening, and never quite enough time

THE BEST HEALTH CARE

The second annual *Maclean's* ranking finds the best health services in prosperous suburbs

By Robert Marshall

What's a difference a year makes. Last June, *Maclean's* broke new ground with the first-ever ranking of health services available to Canadians in major centres across the land. That became possible when the Canadian Institute for Health Information, the magazine's main partner in its periodic health reports, made a leap of its own. In a pilot project, the national health information agency broke out data on 16 urban centres from its national sources. That allowed those regions, home to almost 40 per cent of Canadians, to compare their performance in 13 specific areas with other regions' for the first time. For *Maclean's*, it was the raw data required to launch the ranking project. Braggart rights were to Edmonton, with an overall score of 89 per cent. The other 15 regions followed remarkably close behind, all within 10 percentage

points, down to the vast, difficult-to-service Sudbury region of Northern Ontario, ranking at 79 per cent.

Fast-forward to the present. Because that pilot project produced useful, comparable numbers, CIHI has expanded data for all 113 provincial and territorial health regions— fodder for a much more inclusive ranking. Scanning on page 22, *Maclean's* ranks the health services available to residents of 50 of those regions with populations over 100,000, representing fully 85 per cent of Canadians. With so many regions involved, this second ranking separates them into three sections: 1, communities with medical schools; 2, other major communities; 3, largely rural communities.

The results Edmonton rules again—in section 1, where results are generally higher than in section 2, which in turn scores better overall than the rural section 3. But in an outstanding exception to that trend, regions from section 2 finished first, second and third overall, with marks even higher than Edmonton's. The top spots go to two suburban additions to the ranking: the North Shore region embracing North and West Vancouver, followed closely by the similarly affluent Mississauga/Brampton/Burlington/Greater Toronto area. Victoria, ranked seventh last year, jumps to a strong third among the 50.

In the largely rural section 3, Moncton, N.B., and Leth-



Abdominal surgery at L'Amor Hospital in North Vancouver, covering 85 per cent of the population, the new rankings offer a comprehensive cross-Canada comparison

bridge, Alta., tie for first place. Their scores, in fact, would place them proudly at the top third of section 2, they even outscore four communities in the medical schools section. On the other hand, seven of the rural section's 16 regions produce the lowest marks among the 50. Overall, the rankings provide graphic documentation that, despite legislated guarantees of equal access to health care, the rural, northern regions are simply not equipped to offer health services on a par with those in the cities and big suburbs. For those rural Canadians, there is some reassuring news. Once again, the overall spread is tight, with just 15.6 percentage points separating first place from 50th, the region around Prince George, B.C.

The more comprehensive ranking stems from the success of CIHI's pilot project last year. The 16 participating centres found their regional data so useful for comparison purposes that they asked for more. At word of the regional project spread, managers from the 37 other health regions showed thick interest. Says Jennifer Zelmer, CIHI's director of health reports and analysis: "People outside the 16 regions called up and asked, 'Can we have our data, too,

please?'" As a result, CIHI produced the entire set this year.

The rankings, unfortunately, cannot include the least-populous regions, including all those spread across the territories. Their small numbers tend to vary widely and erratically from year to year. As well, extremely small numbers for some procedures create a significant risk that individual patients could be identified. Consequently, CIHI only publishes the numbers for regions with populations over 100,000. "While very strong on protecting the privacy and confidentiality of both individuals and service providers," says Zelmer.

Quantity is not the only factor to improve over the past year. With CIHI and Statistics Canada expanding their knowledge, the scope of relevant information is constantly growing. This year, the rankings include two important new indicators of effective services: life expectancy and the rate of babies born with low birth weights in each region (page 21). As well, four of the original indicators now record high scores only up to a level where higher numbers do not necessarily represent better service. Those indicators are hip and knee replacements (high marks could indicate a failure of preventive measures) and numbers of physicians and specialists (inflated in the larger centres by the need to serve many patients from outlying regions).

For the rural regions clustered at the bottom of the rank-

ing, the numbers confirm the frustrations of their daily struggle. There are complex factors at play, says Joe de Meers, president of the Sudbury Regional Hospital, whose region ranked last of 16 last year and 40th out of 50 this year. Northern, rural regions face a double disadvantage, he notes. Not only are their facilities and staff levels not up to regional standards, but their patients tend to be sicker. A generally lower socioeconomic status—based on education, employment and affluence—contributes to lower levels of health. “And because of the distances involved,” adds de Meers, “those people are less likely to go for care until it’s too late.”

De Meers, like other rural regional administrators, sees no sign of significant funding to any more prevention and health promotion activities to upgrade services. “When in the interest of the public that it will serve—the urban population—to provide what they think is a substandard for areas that are less well served,” he observes. “But for people in areas, northern areas, it’s a matter of equity. Accessibility to service is a basic tenet of the Canada Health Act. There shouldn’t be direct kinds of disparities in distribution.”

The main challenge in producing the ranking is to make the best use of available data. If a fully developed information system could provide 100 per cent of needed data, “we’re in the 50-per-cent range,” says CHIH’s Toronto-based chairman, Michael Decker, a noted health consultant. “We know



A patient undergoing a CAT scan in Lanes Cove Hospital, just 13.6 percentage points above top-ranking North Shore from rural Prince George, B.C., the region in last place

about as much as we don’t know.” Decker shares the frustration of the public at large—that much of the most clearly illuminating information is still unavailable on a nationally comparable basis, with in emergency, the same it takes to see a specialist, the survival rate after cancer or heart attack strike. “I think the questions at the top of the public’s mind,” says Decker, “have to do with speed, quality and appropriateness of service delivered.”

Results from the efforts under way to fill in these blanks will be incorporated into future rankings. Meanwhile, the proper mix on a solid set of numbers covering a wide range of indicators. David Andrews, a University of Toronto statistician with a keen interest in public health policy, believes the measurements are comprehensive enough that any new factors are unlikely to make a significant difference. “I wouldn’t expect huge changes in circumstances moving from very disadvantaged to very advantaged,” says Andrews. *Maclean’s* contribute in converting the raw data into a representative

How the second ranking was done

Maclean’s produces its annual ranking of the health care available in communities across Canada from information gathered nationally by the Canadian Institute for Health Information and Statistics Canada. Where necessary, those agencies standardized the data to remove discrepancies among them and differences in the population of the country’s 113 provincial and territorial health regions.

Using the 13 best, nationally recognized indicators, *Maclean’s* has ranked 160 communities with populations over 100,000, representing 85 per cent of the national

population. The rankings do not include lower populated regions because their small numbers are subject to large variations from year to year. This year’s numbers, the latest available, are from the fiscal years 1997-1998 or 1998-1999. Life expectancy figures are from 1998.

Maclean’s project consultant, University of Toronto statistician David Andrews, converted raw data into standardized grades for each indicator in each region. Grouping those grades into five categories with assigned weights produced the final scores. The category weights: outcomes, 2, prenatal care, 2, community health, 2, sexually active series, 2, efficiency, 1, resources, 1.

The charts on the following pages rank the 50 regions in three groups with basic similarities—communities with medical



Andrews: choosing results overall and within sectors

schools, other major communities and is largely rural communities. But because the same methodology applies to all three groups, the charts also provide each region’s overall ranking within the group of 50.

As data for two of the three efficiency indicators were not available from Quebec regions, their efficiency score is based on just one indicator. Life expectancy results for most Ontario regions and two in British Columbia were calculated from data gathered in health units approximating these regions.

Judgments based on a growing store of health data

The annual Maclean’s ranking of health care available in Canadian communities was the first available data collected on a comparable basis in all health regions by the Canadian Institute for Health Information and Statistics Canada. The 13 indicators this year:

- **Life expectancy**
The age to which a person would be expected to live, based on mortality rates in 1996. Higher scores go to greater life expectancy.
- **Low birth weight**
The proportion of babies weighing less than 2,500 g (five pounds, eight ounces) at birth, a measure of prenatal care as well as community education and health-screening programs. The higher the rate, the lower the score.
- **Cesarean sections**
The percentage of women who deliver babies by cesarean. Health authorities attribute above-standard rates in most regions to some c-sections being done unnecessarily. The best standings go to the lowest rates.
- **Births after c-sections**
Vaginal births in hospitals by women who previously delivered a baby by

cesarean. The higher the number, the lower the score.

- **Hip fractures**
• **Pneumonia and flu**
Hospitalization of people over 64 for hip fractures, pneumonia or influenza, as a measure of community preventive care and health awareness programs. Higher rates mean lower scores.

- **Hip replacements**
Total hip-replacement surgeries. The higher the rate, the higher the mark—short of the highest levels. Because very high numbers may suggest a failure of preventive efforts, ranking scores do not increase for any mark above 80 per cent of the average rate.

- **Knee replacements**
Total knee-replacement surgeries per 100,000 population, as a measure of available services. The higher the rate, the higher the mark, but scores do not increase for rates above the national average.

- **Possible outpatient**
Patients in hospitals who likely could have received the medical service they required elsewhere. Lower numbers mean higher marks.

• Early discharge

The amount of time patients spend in hospital relative to a national standard for particular conditions. Shorter stays—generally indicating efficient treatment and the availability of follow-up care in the community—mean higher scores.

• Preventable admissions

Hospital admissions per 100,000 people for conditions (such as diabetes or asthma) that could be avoided by appropriate care in doctors’ offices or clinics. Higher rates produce lower marks.

• Physicians

• Specialists

Active GPs and family practitioners or medical specialists per 100,000 people. Scores increase with higher rates, peaking at 80 per cent of the average for communities over 100,000 population.



Zelmer: a pilot project grows across the nation

ranking. “New indicators will simply make the ranking more available and more meaningful.”

Other adjustments to the ranking process this year reflect advice from the health-care community on the relative importance of the indicators. “The special addition of many new indicators over the coming decade is going to be important for management of the health system,” notes Andrews. “But it will have only a modest impact on the rankings.”

CHIH and Statistics Canada drew this year’s numbers from the latest available data, collected between 1996 and 1999 when the federal and provincial governments generally maintained their stronghold on health-care spending. Now, with dollars starting to flow back into the system, administrators have to avoid the splashes of the ‘90s that provoked the painful re-examination of the ‘90s. The people spending the money, says Decker, should know what an extra imaging machine, or five more physicians, or 50 more nurses, will do for the public. “That’s one of our challenges—to get data into patients,” he says.

Meanwhile, as Ottawa and the provinces look over conditions for adding federal dollars to the health system, the stakes are apparent. In Alberta, 10,000 auxiliary nurses

worked an illegal shift for 36 hours last week, meaning to work when the province made some concessions on their wage demands. For that day and a half, hospitals cancelled some surgery as registered nurses, managers and family members continued to find and battle patients. Across the country, Canadian broadcast persisted efforts to drive widely cherished medicine. Alberta’s legislation to expand the duties of private facilities’ magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and other services available for a fee. They ponder the approaching grey zone and wonder if there will be a place for them in the health system.

On a positive note, Federal Health Minister Allan Rock credits the provinces with leading the way in much-needed reforms—investment in home care and the introduction of information-sharing technology. “We can reach a long-term plan to make health care sustainable and affordable,” he told *Maclean’s*. “Ottawa is prepared to talk about long-term financial commitments.” But the federal and provincial ministers continue to meet and adjourn, without agreement. In turbulent times, the *Maclean’s* ranking helps show where the system is working, and where it needs help. ■



Communities with Medical Schools

'A great group rising to the challenge'

The Edmonton health region provides residents with the best services in its select category

EDMONTON: Teamwork in action

In response to a rare meningitis outbreak early this year, Edmonton's Capital Health Authority launched a massive immunization campaign. With medical and administrative staff from across the region pressed into service, 170,000 children and teenagers received vaccinations over a two-week period in February. Last week, Sheila Weatherill, chief executive officer of the Edmonton authority, cited the immunization drive as an example of the teamwork that has put her region in the top rung of the *Maclean's* health-delivery rankings for the second a straight year. "It was a case of a great group of people once again rising to the challenge," says Weatherill. "It was just striving to be part of such an effort."

Last year, Edmonton came out on top of the 16 major centres included in the inaugural *Maclean's* ranking. In this year's more exhaustive review of 50 regions, Edmonton leads the list of "communities with a medical school"—a category that puts Weatherill's region up against the centres she regards as benchmarks of success. "It is ranked first among centres with such prestigious organizations as Toronto's University Health Network and the London Health Sciences Centre," she says. "We live with an enormous sense of pride." Edmonton's success is qualified only by the fact that it ranks slightly behind the top three centres in the next category, "other major communities."

The Capital Health Authority was created five years ago as part of an Alberta-wide move to merge some 250 hospital and health-care boards into 17 regional and two provincial authorities. The Edmonton-based board oversees seven major hospitals in the city



General surgeon Michael Muir checks on patient Neil Gorman at the new University of Alberta Hospital, a chronic shortage of hospital beds even as demands are increasing.

and surrounding area, as well as almost every other aspect of health service in the region. The authority also acts as the major referral centre for far-flung northern communities in Alberta, British Columbia and Saskatchewan as well as the Northwest Territories. On any given day, about 30 per cent of its patients have travelled into the region for treatment. Those visiting patients don't affect the ranking, which considers services available to the region's residents. But they are evidence of a high level of expertise, which would clearly benefit locals as well as outsiders.

Among other things, the Capital Health Authority ranks well in preventable hospital admissions, keeping those numbers low by treating people on an outpatient basis whenever possible. At the height of this year's flu season,

according a high number of births of low-weight babies. That, Weatherill says, may be due to the relatively high proportion of poor people in the region, which exceeds the national average. At the same time, Edmonton boasts a state-of-the-art neonatal unit, allowing physicians to deal with high-risk obstetrics cases. Among other things, the unit features digital radiography in every bedside, providing instant X-rays of the virus and fluola patients.

Like other jurisdictions across Canada, the Edmonton region struggles with a chronic shortage of hospital beds. The authority's own projections call for almost 500 new acute-care beds by 2008—and a staggering 1,800 additional long-term beds to be phased in over the next decade. The Alberta government, which drastically cut health-care funding in the 1990s and forced the closure of hundreds of beds, is now pouring money back into the system. But one of the biggest stumbling blocks to opening new beds, says Weatherill, is a nationwide shortage of nurses and physicians. "I usually have a list of about five things I should be worrying about each day," she adds. "Almost always at the top of that list is how we can recruit and retain staff."

While the challenges are sometimes daunting, Weatherill believes that she and her colleagues are on the right track. "The health restructuring was very difficult in this province," she says. "But the government made the right decision in creating integrated regions." With hospitals and a wide range of community services—including everything from immunization to intensive health-care inspections—consolidated under one umbrella, she adds, managers are able to move personnel and resources quickly as circumstances warrant. "Because of the huge diversity of services," says Weatherill, "I can't imagine having a better job than this." As the *Maclean's* rankings confirm, it is one she is doing exceedingly well.

Brian Bergman

Rank by region

Rank	Region	Overall Score	Overall Ranking	PREVENTABLE		PREVENTABLE		PREVENTABLE		PREVENTABLE		PREVENTABLE		PREVENTABLE		PREVENTABLE	
				Low birth weight	Preterm births	Stillbirths	HIV infections	Neonatal deaths	Infant deaths	Maternal deaths	Perinatal deaths	Physicians per capita	Nurses per capita	Physicians per capita	Nurses per capita	Physicians per capita	Nurses per capita
1	Edmonton	88.3	1	38	44*	18	5	32	18	24	21	34*	34*	4	11	12	12
2	Ottawa	84.9	2	6	32*	13*	24*	14	24	37	11	9*	25	12	10	10	10
3	Saskatoon	84.7	3	12	18*	8*	3	26	16	4	10	18*	38	22	13*	11	11
4	Toronto	83.9	4	8	42*	32*	32*	18*	11	38	32	7	8	10	7	8	8
5	Calgary	83.4	5	8	50	11	2	37	17	30	32	10*	23	13	10	10	10
6	London, Ont.	83.2	6	28*	15*	3	6*	42	8	5	7	18*	4	14	21*	6	6
7	Hamilton	82.8	7	28*	43	33*	14*	18	19	13*	12	1	11	3	21*	7	7
8	Vancouver/Richmond	82.9	8	1*	15*	41	30*	34	16	41	41	12*	28	12*	1	1	1
9	Quebec City	82	9	23*	18*	6	0*	18	4	42	48	—	8	2	4	4	4
10	Winnipeg	82	10	23*	38*	15*	14*	26	14	22*	19	8	37	18	12*	8	8
11	Halifax/Dartmouth	81.4	11	23*	34*	26	10*	36	12	14	5	14*	34	19	9	9	9
12	Shenandoah, Que.	78.9	12	35*	46	1	1	22*	22	41	48	—	26	8	13	13	13
13	Montreal	78.3	13	23*	38*	20	30*	19	6	49	48	—	35	9	9	9	9
14	Kingston, Ont.	78.6	14	36*	37	25*	43	35*	36	8	15	3*	18	17*	17	17	17

*Indicates a tie

Other Major Communities

The road to a healthy life

The comprehensive second ranking includes the suburbs, and finds their prosperous residents have access to the best health services

NORTH/WEST VANCOUVER: Fit and healthy

The North Shore Health Region embraces one of the most impressive locales in Canada, hugging the base of the cedar-crowned Coast Mountains like a ribbon wrapping a beautiful gift. Houses, buildings and roads built into the sides of Cypress Mountain, Grouse Mountain and Mount Seymour steadily look down, south across the Burrard Inlet, to the more prosaic Vancouver skyline. But remarkable scenery is not the area's only blessing. The North Shore region—including West Vancouver, North Vancouver, Bowen Island and Lutes Bay—says the *Maclean's* ranking of the availability of health-care services. "It is a recognition that we are trying to do the right things," says a proud Bruce Harber, North Shore's chief executive officer.

The region, with a population of 200,000, ranks among the leaders in five of the 15 specific ranking categories—life expectancy, low birth weights, preventable admissions to hospital, availability of hip-replacement operations and low rates of hip fractures. It also placed among the top 10 communities in averting hospitalizations for flu and pneumonia and producing babies with healthy birth weights.



"We have affluence, high levels of education and the climate to support people who want to exercise more and eat better," says Harber.

Witch and education are primary requisites for a healthy population, and the North Shore is blessed with both: the average family income for the area is \$73,000. West Vancouver, which makes up one-third of the region, is one of the richest neighbourhoods in Canada, with an

average family income of \$97,000. Fifty-eight per cent of the region's adult population has had some postsecondary education. And fitness, in a climate where it rarely snows beneath the mountain peaks, is a ubiquitous activity: cross-country and alpine skiing, bicycling, walking and jogging along miles of paths, swimming and windsurfing at the beaches. The multitude of outdoor activities helps to pull neighbours together. "There is a strong sense of community here," Harber says.

Analysing community health services into regional administrations, instituted four years ago, has helped link the community's once disparate services together. The combined region has one acute-care hospital, eight long-term care facilities and three community health centres. The regional board has instituted programs focusing on seniors, maternal-child-youth, mental health, cross-community and population health, medicine and surgery. In addition, the board takes guidance from six citizens groups. "We reach out to the community," says Ellen D'Amico, the region's vice-president of programs. "There is not a lot of bureaucracy here and it is easy to get things done."

Harber and his staff recognize most work needs to be done in one area of the ranking: decreasing the length of hospital stays. "We're not sitting at the ready," Harber says. "The North Shore region has been through some fairly turbulent times." Two years ago, the province fired all 12 members on the region's board—their relations with local doctors had reportedly broken down. With his new team, Harber is building bridges. "We're engaging the community and physicians in a way that never happened before," he says.

One means of providing more effective service was to convert a private clinic to perform cosmetic operations. "It decreased our waiting list from five months to three," says Pichon. With 15 per cent of the population over 65, there is a strong focus on support services for the elderly. The

RN Julie Perreault checks equipment in North Shore's hospital, in case of emergency.

Rank by region

	Rank last year	Overall rank	Overall ranking	PREVENTION	PRIMARY CARE	COMMUNITY HEALTH	ELDERLY SERVICES	DISABILITIES	PERFORMANCE							
1 North/West Vancouver	—	67.8	1	1	5*	36	49*	3*	9	7	42	11	70	1	6	37*
2 Mississauga/Stratford/Burlington, Ont.	—	66.6	2	2	28*	26	24*	5	12	32	22	6	12*	7	64*	37*
3 Victoria	7	66.5	3	3	3	66	34*	2	7	28	26	33*	24	33	—	54
4 Kitchener/Waterloo, Ont.	—	63.8	7	11	9*	15*	14*	35	21	58	28	5	2	9	64*	32*
5 Lethbridge/Barrhead-Alberta, Que.	—	63.8	13	22	36*	19*	23	5	2	36	34	—	2	3	14	32*
6 Markham/Richmond Hill, Ont.	—	62.2	14	3*	26*	36	13*	48	25	34	20	16*	3	11	35*	37*
7 St. Catharines/Magnolia, Ont.	—	61.4	16	17	30*	23*	22*	25	10	29	16	14*	16	34	44*	30*
8 Laval, Que.	—	61.3	20	13*	38*	12	28*	55	3	48*	47	—	5	27*	24*	24*
9 Burnaby, B.C.	—	61	21	7	38*	14	26*	46	23*	27*	25	26*	10	19	23*	22
10 Brampton, Ont.	—	60.5	23	26*	13*	17	20*	31*	3	32*	13	3*	3	35	48*	40*
11 Windsor, Ont.	—	59.9	24*	28*	38*	21	16*	27	16	17	5	20*	5	42	55	22
12 Regina	11	56.7	27	23*	44*	4*	26*	25	27	25	25	25*	27	46	28	16
13 Surrey, B.C.	—	56.5	26	35	26*	46	31	48*	23	35	34	9*	14*	5	39*	42*
14 Peterborough, Ont.	—	56.6	32	16	18*	35	40*	47	36	13	17	16*	7	14	47	45
15 Greater/St. John's, Que.	—	56.1	33*	58*	34*	13*	14*	24	34	43	43	—	—	24	22*	26*
16 Halifax, Que.	—	57.3	35	43*	15*	4*	4	3*	40	50	45	—	—	38	35*	46*
17 Chilliwack, B.C.	—	56.9	37*	44*	5*	40*	46*	20	41	33*	24	23*	9	13	37*	53*
18 St. John's/St. John's, Que.	—	56.5	40	42	34*	2	14*	6	25	45	30	—	—	26	32*	48*
19 Okanagan, B.C.	—	56	42	48	15*	10	5	13	39	47	31	—	—	36	16	23
20 St. John's, Nfld.	14	55.5	43	36	44*	42	48	22*	1	46	44	36	36	27	4	1

* Indicates a tie

The top regions sit right next door to two major centres of medical training

region has set up education programs for families and spouses who act as caregivers. The moderate climate and high level of physical activity definitely help in one category: the region has a low hip-fracture rate among the elderly. "You should see all the seniors walking along the seawall," says Pelletier. In addition, the region encourages flu shots and inoculations against pneumonia. Served by the highest number of doctors per capita in the country, residents have no trouble getting their shots.

In other areas of health care, the region is tracking births by caesarian section in an attempt to lower its high rate. Not only would lower numbers be better health policy, says Halbert, but they would save the region a lot of money. "With every percentage drop in c-sections," he adds, "we would save \$100,000." Halbert says the goal of the North Shore Region is to become the healthiest community in North America. "The [Medwell] rating is a seal of approval for us," he says, "evidence that we are making progress."

Jennifer Hunter

MISSISSAUGA: Regional growing pains

For Steve Isakov, success, ironically, arises from being awarded status to the breaking point. As executive director of the district health centre in bustling Halton-Peel region on the west side of Toronto, Isakov has provided over half-a-century planning during a time of rapid population growth and budget cutbacks—a combination that he says "is forced on us to be as efficient as possible." That, combined with other key demographic factors, gives Halton-Peel second place overall in the *Medwell* ranking of available services. In a region that has become a magnet for high-tech industries, the people of Mississauga, Brampton, Oakville, Burlington and other burgeoning towns and subdivisions generally have high levels of income and education—advantages directly connected to better health. "Our people are in good shape," says Isakov. "But they still get sick and have to be treated. And our resources have been badly stretched. At times, it's been very difficult to keep up with the demands on the system."

Now, with the budget squeeze and hospital closures of Ontario sweeping health-care restructuring, mostly in the past, Halton-Peel's five hospitals and its long-term care services are embarking on an estimated \$900-million expansion program that will add thousands of beds in hospitals and



In Halton-Peel's new Credit Valley Hospital a five-year, \$197-million expansion program will add 119 new beds.

long-term facilities in the region within four years. "I think we've been pretty successful," says Isakov, "in persuading the provincial government that we need to pump money into the system to keep up with our tremendous rate of growth."

Stretching 60 km from Toronto's western border to the fringes of Hamilton, and north into the rolling farm country around Caledon and Georgetown, Halton-Peel is booming. Its population of 1.5 million is growing by about 30,000 a year as information technology, manufacturing and service companies flock to the area. Until recently, provincial health-care funding has not kept up with the region's health growth. As in other parts of the country, patients face long waits for MRI scans to detect cancer and other diseases. Some Halton-Peel residents found a way to jump the months-long queue: provincial officials are investigating whether one Brampton hospital broke the law by charging patients \$875 to have an MRI done quickly on a privately funded scanner.

Mississauga's Credit Valley Hospital is typical in many ways of the district's approach to health care. The 15-year-old, 366-bed community hospital has a tight and any lobby designed to put patients at ease. "Wayne Tyffe, Credit Valley's CEO, points with pride to a state-of-the-art computer system that delivers laboratory test results, X-rays and other diagnostic data and medical records to health personnel at the touch of a few keys. The busy hospital has 60,000 emergency-room visits a year, more than a third involving children, and handles a large number of trauma cases, many from accidents on the network of highways crisscrossing the area.

The hospital also operates regional genetic screening and kidney dialysis programs. Its follow-up services for discharged patients include one that connects the elderly and disabled with support services in the community. Tyffe says there is an emphasis on self-improvement at the hospital. "We constantly look at the way we do things," he adds, "and try to find ways of doing things better."

A five-year, \$197-million expansion program should help. Credit Valley will get 119 new beds and become a regional centre for more specialties, including cancer and

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- Qualifying nominations will be received by a committee including distinguished health care professionals.
- Nominations must be postmarked no later than August 31, 2000.
- The five regions for which awards may be given are: Maritime (Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland), Quebec, Ontario, Western Region (Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta) and British Columbia (B.C.) and the Territories. A pool of leading nominations will be selected by the committee. The five awards (one national and four regional awards) will be selected from the pool of leading nominations. If a region is not represented in the pool of leading nominations selected by the committee, an award for that region will not be given.
- Award recipients will be announced on November 13, 2000.
- Award recipients will be selected from qualifying nominations only. Caregivers cannot nominate themselves.

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A therapy garden at Victoria's Juan de Fuca Hospital, high marks for life expectancy and the prevention of flu and pneumonia

born in the region can expect to live to the age of 77 and a girl to 81.7 years," says Patricia Coward, acting chief executive officer for the region. Those excellent showings have vaulted Victoria to third place overall this year, up from seventh last year. Coward attributes the improvements to the creation three years ago of health regions grouping hospitals and other community health facilities into a single administration. That reorganization, she says, is just beginning to show its benefits in the 1997-to-1999 data used in the ranking. "Reorganization," says Coward, "has allowed us to put more money and resources into the delivery of care."

Boosting scenic beauty and a moderate climate with just half the rain in Vancouver, Victoria has long been a destination for retirees. About 20 per cent of the population is over 65. The same factors have drawn many doctors, giving Victoria high marks in physicians per capita. "Doctors are attracted here because it's a really nice place to live and work," says Coward. The region ranges from the southern Gulf Islands on the way to Port Renfrew on the west coast of Vancouver Island. Its facilities include four acute-care hospitals and more than 30 other sites providing long-term care, children's rehabilitation, and mental-health facilities. The population of 337,000 is affluent and well-educated.

Coward allows that some problems remain in the delivery of hospital services. Average lengths of stay in hospital, for instance, are too long, reflecting a lack of alternative-care facilities in the community. "We need more places outside hospitals where people can spend time recovering from surgery," Coward explains. "That's something we are going to focus on next year." The region is also addressing its high rate of births by caesarian section, trying to determine if the risky procedure could be avoided in some cases. The rankings also show that it is relatively hard to get a hip or knee replacement in Victoria. "The ministry of health decides how many we can do," says Coward. "We are not doing as many as we should."

But, like the top-ranking North Shore region across the Strait of Georgia, the Capital region has good inoculation programs in place to minimize flu and pneumonia. "We also provide immunization for our hospital staff as they don't pass bugs to the patients," Coward explains. Average birth weights are also at a healthy level. Coward cites the availability of a perinatologist—a specialist in care before and after birth—as a benefit to women with high-risk pregnancies. The region is proud as well of its progress to reduce payment not to deliver babies, and the training it provides for foster parents caring for babies addicted to narcotics. "We are doing some wonderful things in terms of child care," says Coward. And setting a standard for other regions.

Journalist: Hunter

Cover

preferences. In Halton Peel as a whole, expansion will add 300 hospital beds to the current inventory of 2,400 and more than 3,800 long-term care beds in at least 20 new centres to help cope with the district's rapidly growing population of people 65 and over. "This is a big expansion," says Iank. But given the frantic rate of growth, it likely won't be long before the region has to expand its services again.

Mark Nichols

VICTORIA: Special efforts for the elderly

Along the sidewalks and streets of Victoria, where sprays of fluorescent paint capture the eye, "Our city is a veritable fruit of colour," notes Elaine Gallagher, a professor of nursing at the University of Victoria. It is not the work of erudite graffiti artists. Instead, municipal workers are wielding the spray can to help senior citizens avoid hip fractures. Their splashes of colour identify dangerous cracks and potholes that cannot immediately be repaired. The paint sprays are part of a public safety program that the UVic nursing school established five years ago in conjunction with Viccom, Saanich and Sidney, the urban areas that make up the Capital Health Region. Thanks to that program and other initiatives, the district at the south end of Vancouver Island does an excellent job of preventing hip fractures, one indicator used in MeritQuest's annual ranking of the availability of health services.

Besides the spray painting, municipal workers repair sidewalk cracks and holes much quicker than in the past. "They are actually rethinking the way they build their sidewalks," says Gallagher. The safety program also encourages seniors to participate in 15-to-20 courses to improve co-ordination and prevent falls. And it has helped Victoria score high marks for life expectancy and prevention of pneumonia and flu. "A boy



LEFT: PHOTOFEST/ARAMARK; RIGHT: JIMMY KYLE/STOCK PHOTO; JOURNALIST: CORNELIA

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Largely Rural Communities

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Two rural regions lead their section with impressive scores as they face up to the challenge of serving widely dispersed populations

MONCTON: 'Demands are immense'

If persons in Prince Edward Island need brain surgery, chances are they will be sent to Moncton, N.B. The same goes for city patients from the northern reaches of New Brunswick who require kidney dialysis. Or even a cancer sufferer living across the Nova Scotia border. Moncton's two hospitals treat 200,000 mostly working-class people scattered across the economically challenged southeast corner of the province. But as the main referral facilities for complex procedures in the area, the Moncton and the Dr. George L. Dumont Regional hospitals also get more than 20 per cent of their patients from far-off regions of New Brunswick or parts of two neighbouring provinces. "If they are referred to us they are really sick," says Gitta Kalczyk, acting chief executive officer for Moncton Hospital. "The demands are immense."

The specialized services help bring up the ranking scores for these distant health regions that rely on Moncton's expertise. But the same skills are apparently a blessing for the Moncton region's own residents, giving them access to specialist care relatively close to home. In the rankings of the services available to a region's residents, Moncton sits for first place in the "largely rural" category. The results suggest that the local health workers—from specialists in local clinics and outpatient services—have a good handle on the region's needs.

Moncton ranked second among all 50 regions in maintaining low birth weights, and sixth overall in avoiding hip fractures. The 412-bed Moncton Hospital has specialties in neuro-, vascular and thoracic surgery, provides chemotherapy for cancer patients, runs

a neonatal intensive-care unit and treats HIV and other infectious diseases. George L. Dumont, with 423 beds, mainly serves the area's large French speaking community. It offers radiation treatment as well as chemotherapy for cancer patients, kidney dialysis and an obstetrics clinic. "We have different specialties," says Pierre Le Bouthillier, chief executive at George L. Dumont. "But we cover the waterfront."

Each hospital will soon install new magnetic resonance imaging units to improve the detection of cancer, brain ad-

Checking X-rays on modern digital monitors at George L. Dumont hospital. "We cover the waterfront"

ments and bone disease—at \$3 million to \$4 million per unit. And the George L. Dumont has a project under way to reduce the number of days patients spend in hospital—a measurement, to some extent, of the availability of follow-up care in the community. That is one area in which New Brunswick's health regions fared poorly in the rankings.

Maintaining high ratios in the midst of fiscal restraints has taken some scrambling. Admit ratios at both hospitals contend they have done a good job of cutting administrative and support costs to save money for patient care. Even so, the backlog just as may be true. The province has given every New Brunswick hospital until June 15 to develop "action plans" for balancing their budgets. Specialists, however, are already in short supply, a fact underlined by the current 516-month wait for orthopedic surgery at Moncton Hospital, which posted a \$9.7-million loss in the last fiscal year. At George L. Dumont, 10 to 15 patients sleep in the emergency ward most nights because no beds are available in the wards. "We can try to squeeze here and there," says Le Bouthillier, whose facility won \$6 million in the red last year. "But maintaining the basic necessities is going to be a big challenge."

John DeMoss

LETHBRIDGE: Top-quality doctors

Stretching eastward from the Rockies to the prairie sugar-beet fields near Tibes, halfway across the province, the Chinook Health Region takes in a broad, scenic swath of southwestern Alberta. It is a land of ranches, farmers and urban dwellers—the latter mostly centered in Lethbridge. It is also home to one of the highest proportions of senior citizens in the province—just under 14 per cent of the region's 150,000 residents are over 64. So when GIL



Rank by region

	Rank last year	Overall Score	Overall Ranking	Life expectancy	PRENATAL CARE	COMMUNITY HEALTH	DIAGNOSTIC SERVICES	HEALTHCARE	ADMISSIONS					
				Low birth weight	Caesarean section	Births after 6 weeks	Hip fractures	Physicians and flu	Hip replacements	Free hospital non-admissions	Early discharges	Prevalence of arthritis	Physicians per capita	Specialists per capita
1* Moncton, N.B.	—	81.9	17*	13*	2	36*	46	8	37	13	23	36	38*	20
1* Lethbridge, Alta.	—	81.9	17*	28*	10	7	20*	1	26	3	5	20*	31*	31
2* Vancouver, B.C.	—	80.8	22	10*	6	37	28*	37	28	28	26	32*	30	20*
4* York-Whitby/Escumac/Whitby, Ont.	—	79.9	33*	42*	28*	8*	10*	16*	8	44*	40	—	20	27*
5* Red Deer, Alta.	—	78.1	33*	10*	10*	20	30*	11	49	10	11	33*	38	40*
6* Toronto/West York, Ont.	—	77.7	39	18*	47*	23	38*	31*	25	16	13*	25*	32	42*
7* Thunder Bay, Ont.	—	76.9	33*	46	1	39	12*	40*	29	27*	10	23*	37	43
7* Owen Sound, Ont.	—	76.3	33*	28*	12*	30*	38*	40	44	2	3	20*	3	36
7* Saint John, N.B.	—	76.3	41	30	38*	32*	48	29	40	26	6	20*	30	33*
10* Fredericton	15	75.3	48	39*	11*	47	49	7	40	21	9	39	24	36*
12* Hull/Aylmer, Que.	—	74.8	45	43	34*	17	43	30	35	39	30	—	32	30
13* Antigonish/Cape Breton, N.S.	—	73.9	46	47	13*	10*	6	30	50	6	4	31*	35	36
13* North Bay/Norfolk, Ont.	—	73.3	47	48*	7	46	50	50	43	6	16	30	37	43*
14* Prince Edward Island	—	73.6	46	20*	0*	43*	30*	60*	48	19	39	37	30	46
16* Sudbury/Sault Ste. Marie, Ont.	18	72.5	49	40*	32*	46	47	43	42	33	27	22	19	40
16* Prince George, B.C.	—	72	50	49*	38*	48	48	36	47	1	2	31*	18	37*

*Indicates a tie

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Cover

In southwest Alberta,
few patients have to be
referred to the big centre

Tourigny, chief executive officer of the Chinook Health Region, is asked to cite the initiative he's most proud of, it's not surprising that he names several targeted at seniors. Among them: a 45-bed geriatric assessment and rehabilitation unit and a series of "assisted" services' lodges that provide enough professional care to keep the elderly out of nursing homes for longer. "Seniors consume the greatest proportion of health-care resources," says Tourigny. "They have an impact on everyone in the system."

While seniors are an obvious priority, Tourigny believes the success of the Chinook health authority—and for top spot in the rankings' "largely rural communities" category—has much to do with a government-imposed effort to reorganize health-care delivery. In 1995, Alberta merged 250 hospitals and health-care boards into 17 regional and two provincial authorities. The Chinook region's single-authority replaced 14 boards. As well as streamlining administration, the reform gave the region control over nearly every aspect of health-care delivery—and the authority to quickly shut its sources from one service to another. "The crux," says Tourigny, "was not to the highest common denominator when you do these things."

Currently, the big push is to improve the level of long-term care. Five years ago, notes Tourigny, there were no waiting lists for long-term beds in the Chinook region; projections now show a need for about 250 new spots by 2006. "A major issue," he says, "is to make sure we provide enough bed space for our seniors so the state care side can continue to function efficiently." Fortunately, adds Tourigny, the Alberta government appears to understand the challenge, last week, the Chinook region secured \$4.5 million in new provincial funding for long-term care.



Rehab at Lethbridge Hospital, trying to upgrade long-term care

Although primarily a rural region, Chinook exports few patients to larger centres. The main exceptions are open-heart and neurosurgery patients, who normally travel to Calgary or Edmonton. Tourigny credits the region's self-sufficiency to the nature of its medical staff. "When I moved here from Calgary five years ago," he says, "I was overwhelmed by the quality of both our medical specialists and our rural family docs."

In the rankings, Chinook scores relatively poorly in terms of physicians and specialist per capita. "But if you compare us to other smaller centres, I think we're not so bad," says Tourigny. "We don't have a shortage of physicians and we have almost every specialty covered." But the rankings correctly identify one shortcoming, he acknowledges, in the area of preventable admissions—people whose conditions do not necessarily require a hospital stay. "There's a rural factor in play," Tourigny says. Because some residents have to travel distances for care, "our physicians sometimes choose to admit patients for observation, whereas that might not be necessary in a large urban centre." It is a reminder that delivering health care in rural Canada presents its own set of challenges.

Brian Bergman

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TRAGEDY in Walkerton

Contaminated water brings death and outrage to an Ontario town



En route to hospital in London, Ont.: repercussions that are spreading beyond Walkerton

By Barbara Wickens in Walkerton

Judi Doerr was on the brink of tears. "I'm just so tired, so frustrated," she said, her voice quavering. Doerr and her two children, Matt, 10, and Bayley, 7, were among the 5,000 residents of Walkerton, Ont., who had to cope last week with the shocking news that their town's water supply was contaminated by a deadly strain of *E. coli* bacteria. By week's end, the outbreak in the picturesque farming community 150 km northwest of Toronto had killed five, put dozens in the hospital and stricken more than 1,000 with nausea, severe cramps and bloody diarrhea. But Doerr said that if she and her family have remained healthy so far, it's thanks mainly to good luck. She learned from a friend who works at a local nursing home, where several elderly residents became ill, of rumors circulating about the town's water supply. As a result, Doerr began boiling her family's tap water on May 20—a full day before Dr. Murray McQuigge, the medical officer of health for the Bruce-Grey-Owen Sound Health Unit, issued his boil-water warning. "With two kids and two big dogs," she recounted, "as soon as I finished boiling one big pot, I had to start the next."

Four days later, the town's poultry and local businesses began handing out free cases of bottled water. That saved Doerr's week-old newborns. "We pooped," she says, "and I don't have a cut, so I had to pull the water home in the bath's wagon." But what really annoyed and upset her was the claim that some local officials were aware of the problem five days before it became public and did not speak up. In a strongly worded statement he prepared in consultation with the chief medical officer of Ontario, McQuigge told a news conference that the Walkerton Public Utilities Commission had sampled the water on May 15. On May 18, he said, the PUC received a fax from the private lab that had tested the water—indicating it was contaminated. The PUC fully acknowledged on May 23 there was a problem, McQuigge said—when he presented the results of his own independent water tests. (A PUC spokesman said the firm did arrive, but the response did not understand its seriousness.) McQuigge's statement left Doerr, whose children have diarrhoea among the sick, angry with her town's officials. "I want to grab them by the throat," she said, her hands gesturing in a circle, "and ask them, are they families? It's not making sense." Later, Gerry Palmer, president of GAF Environmental Services Inc., a London, Ont.-based company that tested Walkerton's water between 1996 and the beginning of May, said tests detected coliform bacteria, an indication that potentially contaminated surface waters were



Burying Lenore Al, 66, one of the victims: questions about who was to blame

seeping into the town's wells, as early as January. He said he notified municipal authorities and an Ontario environment ministry office in Owen Sound, assuming the ministry would follow up with the town to ensure it was fixed.

A well-prospered Victorian-era town nestled among the rolling green hills of southwestern Ontario, Walkerton does not look like the sort of place where a deadly pollutant would strike. There are no congested highways, no giant industrial smokestacks spewing grey haze. Instead, the sparkling Sauguen River meanders through the town and surrounding countryside, a popular region for such recreational activities as fishing and canoeing. Elsewhere, on the area's picturesque-looking farms, dairy and beef cattle roam peacefully. Ironically, that bucolic beauty may be at the root of Walkerton's problems; investigation suspect run-off from cattle manure is a possible source of the *E. coli* in the water.

However the contamination occurred, the disaster has brought out the best—and the worse—of small-town Canada. Friends and neighbors have gone out of their way to be kind, whether offering a steady hand at a funeral or simply asking "How are you?"—and meaning it. Those in nearby communities such as Hanover, where the water is safe, are letting Walkerton residents live with them until they beat the all-clear. Companies and local businesses have donated needed supplies, while doctors and nurses from across Ontario began arriving at week's end to relieve medical personnel becoming fatigued by the ordeal. But at the same time, the narrow trail—which has plenty of grit in a town where

so many people know each other by first name—went into high gear. More charging war speculation about who was to blame, an issue the courts may ultimately decide.

Not surprisingly, the repercussions are spreading far beyond Walkerton, where schools have been closed and some businesses have shut their doors until the crisis is over. Caretakers everywhere are asking whether a similar tragedy could unfold in their community—and in many cases the answer is yes (page 37). The town of Fort Erie, Ont., near Hamilton, issued a boil-water warning on Saturday after trace amounts of *E. coli* were detected in its water supply, but there were no indications anyone was affected. The event in Walkerton, meanwhile, have already spawned a \$1-billion class-action lawsuit, with two more in the works—and three major investigations. Ontario Environment Minister Dan Newman has asked officials from his own ministry to try to determine how the disaster occurred. The Ontario Provincial Police has branched an investigation as has the coroner's office. At the same time, opposition MPs have blamed Mike Harris's Conservative, saying the incident is the inevitable result of his government's policies, including budget cutting, downsizing and amalgamating.

The first hint of the calamity came when Dr. Krism Hallett, a pediatrician in Owen Sound, saw two young patients on the same day with the same uncommon symptoms: bloody diarrhea. Both were from Walkerton, 50 km to the south. Hallett ordered blood tests, but rather than waiting the 48 hours for the results—and fearing the two had become ill from tainted food they may have eaten at the same



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Fighting deportation

The Supreme Court of Canada will consider whether immigrants deemed to be security risks can be deported to their home country if they face the risk of torture. The court will hear the appeals of Munkhshovsogoo Sumii, who is from Sri Lanka and a former leader of the World Tamil Movement, and Munir Khan, a former Iranian secret service agent. Both are fighting deportation, claiming they will be tortured or executed if they return home.

Lloyd's cancels a sea search

Lloyd's of London decided it will not search the seabed off Nova Scotia for \$300 million in goods lost in the 1998 crash of Swissair Flight 111, which killed all 229 people onboard. Family members of crash victims were shocked when the insurance company applied for a recovery license, saying the search would disturb a sacred site.

Placards at a union office

Pickets were set up outside Canadian Auto Workers union offices after 92 clerical workers walked off the job over a dispute regarding pensions. The workers are seeking the same pension negotiated in 1999 for CAW members who work at offices at Chrysler, Ford and General Motors.

Bail for a porn star

Former porn star Kathryn Givens, better known as Marilyn Star, was arrested in Vancouver, her second bail while she awaits a June 26 extradition hearing. U.S. authorities allege that the B.C. native moved illegal sex acts from her former lover James McDermott Jr., a Wall Street investment banker who was found guilty of securities fraud in April.

Facing an anti-gay backlash

Canadian Alliance leadership candidate Tom Long responded to an Internet comment by the pro-life Campaign Life Coalition that said he was a danger to Canada because two of his advisors are gay. "I will not tolerate discrimination of any kind," he said. Fellow candidate Stockwell Day denied suggestions from the Long camp that he was behind the report.



A homecoming for the Unknown Soldier

Canada's Unknown Soldier came home—from the cemetery at Vimy Ridge, where he died during the famous 1917 battle that sent the Germans away into retreat. The body lay in state in Ottawa before being interred in a new tomb at the National War Memorial. "This young man represents all those who have answered the call to duty," said Veterans Affairs Minister George Baker.

An illegal walkout hits Alberta

Ten thousand health care workers in Alberta walked off the job for an illegal two-day strike that forced hospitals to cancel surgeries and discharge thousands of patients. In a mediated settlement, the Alberta Union of Provincial Employees and the Provincial Health Authorities of Alberta finally agreed to a contract that will give former practical nurses—the largest of the four groups of striking workers—a 16 per cent increase over two years. The deal also contained an amnesty for union members who walked out, although

the union itself was fined \$400,000 for contempt of court after defying a Labour Relations Board order.

Health care in Alberta was also one of the main topics of debate at the annual western provinces' meeting. Alberta Conservative Premier Ralph Klein faced off against his NDP counterparts—Lloyd Dooling of British Columbia, Roy Romanow of Saskatchewan and Manitoba's Gary Doer—over his province's Bill 11. That legislation, passed on May 16, expands the role of private clinics in Alberta, and has raised fears it will result in a two-tier health-care system. In the end, Romanow said he is adopting a "wait-and-see" attitude about the legislation.

Gary Filmon calls it quits

Former Manitoba premier Gary Filmon resigned as leader of the provincial Conservatives, saying he will vacate his seat in the legislature this fall. The announcement ended the end of a 25-year career in politics, with 11 years spent as premier of Manitoba and Gary Doer's New Democrats assumed the Tories in 1999. Filmon's government managed to balance the provincial budget, but his time in office was also marked by the legislature's failure to ratify the Meech Lake accord in 1990 (the vote was pulled by future MLA Elphie Hepler).

Canadian forensic experts are helping East Timor solve grisly crimes of the recent past

By Warren Caragata in Jakarta

Five days after an Australian-led peacekeeping force landed in East Timor on Sept. 20, 1999, a convoy that included nuns and other Catholic clergy left the eastern market town of Les Palas. The arrival of foreign soldiers, including 281 Canadians, and their deployment throughout the territory was supposed to end the murder and destruction that followed East Timor's vote for independence from Indonesian rule. But troops would not reach Les Palas for another week, and for some of the travellers, including two nuns and a teenage girl, the day would end in death. In one of the final acts of mayhem, a militia group with ties to the Indonesian military ambushed the group along a quiet rural road, slaughtered eight people and threw their bodies into a stream.

Now, months later, four Canadian forensic experts have helped piece together what exactly happened on that bloody Sunday in the hands of Team Alpha, one of East Timor's most notorious militia groups. For former RCMP officer Bob Stait and his team, the work involved the painstaking identification of the victims, comparing the remains with what they knew from relatives and friends. For the benefit of the police and prosecution, they also had to determine the cause of death. "It's one thing to say they were shot, but it's better to be able to prove it," says Stait, who recently arrived in British Columbia where he works with the B.C. Coroner's Office in Burnaby.

Stait, who went to East Timor in early March on a trip financed by the Canadian International Development Agency, has done work like this before in Kosovo, Sri Lanka and Ukraine. The task is always the same: trying to make sense of the horror that people can inflict on their neighbours, trying to bring justice for the victims whose remains he digs up. "Our job is the dead people," he says. "We're the only people representing them."

One day, having just returned to East Timor's capital of Dili from Les Palas, Stait hurriedly looked like someone who had spent the weekend living in a tent while digging up the decomposed remains of people who suffered a brutal death. Wearing a Regina Archaeological Society T-shirt, he appeared



Looking at the remains of victims: a brutal and deadly campaign by ruthless militia groups

dishevelled and telephone systems, especially outside Dili, are only slowly being repaired. There is no access to X-rays or the most sophisticated tools of the trade, like DNA typing, and there is only one morgue, in Dili, to provide refrigeration for bodies—a problem given East Timor's humid, tropical weather.

Stait says the work can sometimes be done in the field, but autopsies require plenty of running water, which is often lacking outside the capital. "Doing it with a bucket of water doesn't work," he explains. But transporting the bodies to the morgue in Dili was neither pleasant nor efficient. In fact, every detail about a corpse can tell an important part of the crime story. "The dead will yield an amazing amount of information," says Skinner, "but the body has to be treated in a way that it's going to give you that information." And that, given East Timor's malleable, bumpy roads, can often be impossible.

Focus is everything—to keep from getting sick or overwhelmed by the mental and physical horrors. "We're not busy at the time to worry about that," Stait says. "You get pretty numb after a while." Getting emotional can also interfere with the work—and how well the work gets done can determine whether the killers will ever be brought to justice. Sometimes, though, certain aspects of the job are overwhelming. "The thing that still bothers us is the children," says Stait. "They are totally innocent victims. They have no sin."

Stait has worked as a forensic expert, both internationally and as an RCMP officer, for 25 years, and on more than 600 homicides, including the Clifford Olson murders. But he still describes over East Timor's own unique vision of hell: bodies hacked to death with machetes, people shot with handwritten weapons firing shots projected as rocks and nails. "That is so unusual," he says, "for a Canadian to see these kind of things."

Stait, who was raised on a farm near Brooks, Alta., and owns a 35-acre spread near Kulu in the central Kootenay region of British Columbia, did enjoy the time he spent with East Timorese peasants. "They are like the rural people where I grew up," he says. But in their lives, he adds, "there is horror everywhere you look." He has come to accept that decent people can, in the right circumstances, turn into cold-blooded killers. "Every one of us has the potential—you don't know until you see them," he notes. Despite that, Stait remains optimistic about his fellow human beings. "I will look for the inherent good in people. I look for hope." Even when he is dealing in death. ■

The Death Detectives

investigate on the terrace of the United Nations lunchroom—an optimistic, open man with a quirky smile and clear blue eyes. His work may deal with horrors that most others might shun, but he was clearly at peace with what he does. "I love it," he blithely told *Maclean's*.

Sadly, it is a job much in demand in East Timor. Early reports last year suggested thousands of East Timorese had died in the hands of the Indonesian military and their surrogates in the militia. And although it now seems the toll is more likely to be about 1,600, East Timor has little of anything like a forensic profession in pathology and forensic anthropology. So the United Nations, which is overseeing the territory's transition to independence, brings in foreigners on short-term contracts to investigate the deaths.

That included Stait and his colleagues, Dr. Mike Pollanen, a pathologist, and Dr. Kathy Grupe, a forensic anthropologist, both from the Ontario Coroner's Office in Toronto. Another Canadian, Matt Skinner, a third-year anthropology student at Simon Fraser University in Burnaby, B.C., worked



Stait at home in British Columbia. One job at the dead—we're representing them

alongside the team as a volunteer for the United Nations, which only covered his expenses. Skinner's father, Mark, an anthropology professor at Simon Fraser, was the first forensic expert to arrive in Timor last fall, when the crime scenes were still fresh (there are only a few past graves—many bodies were simply left in rice or corn fields). When he returned to Vancouver, he convinced Matt to volunteer. "You can't beat this kind of experience," Matt Skinner says.

East Timor posed some unique challenges. There was one particular danger for the investigators: tuberculosis. The disease is rampant in East Timor and because the virus remains active long after the body is infected it died, the forensic team had to take special care to wear protective clothing and masks. And then there was the professional challenge: most buildings were looted and destroyed in last year's violence, while

A woman from small-town Canada
is shaking up Washington as
she advances the cause of gay rights

Working the System

By Andrew Phillips in Washington

Elizabeth Birch always knew she was different. To all appearances, growing up across Canada as the daughter of an air force officer, she was perfectly "normal." A high-performing student and super-keen athlete. Elected head of her junior high school in Winnipeg, then student council president of her high school in Oshawa, Ont. But all along, the results were "I hated it, just absolutely hated it. I felt like I was on a foreign planet." By the time she was 12, she'd figured out the reason: she was gay.

It was five more years before she fled—from her family, from Oshawa, from Canada. Up With People, the relentlessly upbeat international song-and-dance troupe for young people, came to town. She signed on, and spent a year traveling through Europe, North Africa and the United States. "It was totally schizo," she says with an embarrassed laugh. Some other members of the group, it turned out, were also gay. For the first time, Birch connected with people like her. "It saved my life."

A quarter-century later, Birch has done much more than save her own life. At 43, she runs the Human Rights Campaign, the biggest, most effective gay-right organization in the United States. In five years, she has tripled its staff, its budget and its membership—bringing skills she learned as a Siftone Valley lawyer to a movement born known for social activism. In late April, she helped to stage the biggest-ever gay and lesbian show of strength in Washington: a mass march, street festival and rock concert that drew hundreds of thousands to the capital. But she has become best known for working the system. She and her partner, 41-year-old Hilary Rosen, head of the Recording Industry Association of America, form one of Washington's certified power couples, drawing politicians and other movers and shakers to their surprisingly modern suburban home in Chevy Chase, Md. "I've always had an activist spirit," she says, "but a capitalist heart."

It hasn't all been easy. At home with Rosen after a



long day, Birch plays with Jacob and Anna, the twins they adopted at birth 17 months ago. The adoption became public, and Birch and Rosen were attacked by conservatives, including radio commentator Dr. Laura Schlesinger and a group called the Family Research Council. Even as both babies were through life-threatening medical crisis, the council accused Birch and Rosen of putting "indictable social activists" before the children's happiness. And Schlesinger wrote in her syndicated column: "This has gone too far. We cannot continue to sacrifice our children on

Donk (left) and Rosen in their Maryland home: lobbying politicians, staging massive anti-gay rallies and building a powerful organization

the altar of Trenchard and 'diversity'." Even now, Birch shakes up at the memory: "It can't tell you. It was the worst experience of my life."

For the most part, though, Birch's odyssey from blue-collar Oshawa to the Human Rights Campaign's top office just off K Street, home to Washington's most powerful law firms and lobbyists, has been a story of self-discovery and remarkable achievement. Born on a military base in Dayton, Ohio, where her father, an aeronautical engineer with the Canadian air force, was sent to study in 1956, she was raised on a mountain Canada Camp Border, Ont., Canada, B.C., and Cold Lake, Alta. Early on, it was clear that the world going to fit in. At age 13, the members running back to Winnipeg from Oshawa to see Anne Murray (an icon for lesbian) singing records there. As student council president

Rights Campaign gets dinner in Washington and meeting Vice-President Al Gore. Her tolerance was further tested when Birch's younger sister Jo Ann revealed that she, too, is gay (The Birchs also have another daughter and two sons).

Birch moved with a girlfriend to Hawaii, then studied law at Santa Clara University in California. In 1985, the joined one of San Francisco's top law firms, then became chief litigator for Apple Computer Inc. There she helped to persuade the company's then-CEO John Sculley to extend benefits to domestic partners of homosexual couples. All along she had been involved with gay causes. When the Human Rights Campaign went looking for a new executive-director in 1994, Birch was recruited.

The Republicans under Newt Gingrich had just taken over Congress with a radical right agenda, and the Human Rights Campaign wanted a leader who could deal with the new powers in Washington. Birch, with her corporate background and down-for-success style, fit the bill. She brought in up-to-the-minute communications and marketing techniques. She studied congressional methods pioneered by groups in disarray in the Christian Coalition and the American Association of Religious Parents, regarded as among the most effective Washington lobbies. "What we're trying to build," she says, "is a hip, gay AARP"—creating an organization that knows how to wield the levers of power while providing valuable services to its constituency.

In sheer organizational terms, it has paid off. When Birch arrived in January 1995, the organization had 28 staff, a \$2.5-million budget and 80,000 members. This year, it has 92 employees, \$31.5 million and more than 390,000 paid-up members. Much of the money goes toward lobbying Congress, which in recent years has often meant fighting issues as proposed by Republicans that homosexuals are in battle. The Human Rights Campaign has successfully fought off many proposals, but it is still in a major deficit in 1996 when Congress passed the Defense of Marriage Act, which defined marriage as a union between a man and a woman, thus denying gay couples federal benefits. The bill was designed largely to put Democrats on the spot just before the fall elections. President Bill Clinton signed it into law, thinking

that would make his party less vulnerable with conservative voters. "It'll be one of the most shameful moments," Birch says. "They had him over a barrel, so to he thought."

In fact, Birch has had many meetings with Clinton, who she says has "a fundamentally good heart on these issues." She persuaded him to attend the campaign's annual Washington fund-raising dinner in 1997, the first time a sitting president had attended a gay-right event. And in her office, along with a playpen for when the owner visits, are photos of Bill and Hillary Clinton with Birch and Hilary Rosen. Together they make a formidable couple at head of the accounting, association. Rosen is one of Washington's top lobbyists, with a salary that Washingtonian magazine recently put at \$900,000 (U.S.). Rosen is in the second instance, The Washington Post once wrote, "what Jack Welch is to Hollywood—the worst carrier, the spin doc, the super-scholarship."

Birch's burnished-down style isn't universally popular. Some

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World

other homosexual-rights groups criticize the Human Rights Campaign as too timid, too dedicated to working the system rather than changing it. Birch says that it reflects where most gay people are now—living mostly assimilated lives in mainstream communities. "You can say, 'he's all gayline!' But maybe that's the point."

One aspect of this new assembly is what Birch calls the "gayby boom"—gay couples raising children through adoption, artificial insemination or from previous marriages. With Jacob and Araya now touring around their uptown house (complete with indoor pool and a "wedding tower"), Birch and Rosen find themselves living that trend. Another is the developer-so-called gay marriage—or something close to it.

In late April, Vermont became the first state to legalize "civil unions" for homosexual couples, giving them a range of benefits and legal rights that Birch recognizes that going any further will be very difficult. "The whole notion of gay marriage smashes everything from anger to mystery to rage," she says. "It's the toughest issue, and it will take the longest to resolve."

For inspiration, Birch sometimes looks north to the country she left behind 26 years ago. As a teenager, she dreamed of becoming a member of Parliament, but thought that would be impossible once she realized she was gay. "Second Lebanon loved out my dreams," she says, referring to the openly gay British Columbia MP. "Without a local friend and kiss, gay people have simply been elected to office in Canada."

In the United States, the presence of a powerful religious right makes the debate for gay rights more hostile. "You have this fanatical, obsessive type of politics that moves out of the realm of the rational into the realm of the hyper-religious," Birch says. "In Canada, people live and breathe the separation of church and state." And that, Birch knows now, makes her own story doubly ironic. "Everything I dream of for the United States already exists in Canada, I think, about of gay marriage," she says. "That's the big paradox of my life, my big journey out of Canada, that I needed to flee—to find myself." ■

Ethiopian advances

Ethiopia captured the key border town of Zalambessa and advanced well into Eritrean territory. Faced with the imminent offensive, Eritrea had evacuated earlier in the week that it would withdraw from all territory it captured as the start of the border war in May 1998, but Ethiopia said hostilities would end only when it had verified Eritrea's withdrawal. Peace talks were scheduled for this week.

Proclaiming innocence

John and Penny Ramsey, whose six-year-old daughter, JonBenet, was murdered in December 1996, said that a lie detector test, which they had arranged, cleared them of any involvement in her death. No charges have ever been laid in the murder, shot a controversial inscription criticizing was heached.

Standoff in Fiji

Ratsch continued to hold Fiji's prime minister, Mahendra Chaudhry, and dozens of legislators hostage after an attempted coup on May 19. Chaudhry is the first leader of Fiji from its ethnic Indian minority, while rebel leader George Speight says he is acting on behalf of the Pacific island's majority ethnic Fijians. In an attempt to defuse the crisis, President Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara announced on Saturday that he had fired the government.

A break in the case

British police announced they had arrested an unidentified man for questioning in the April 1998, shooting death of TV personality Jill Dando. The high-profile murder, which some sources say could have been a contract killing, involved an extensive investigation involving 39 detectives.

Protests in China

With the June 4 anniversary of the 1989 Tiananmen Square uprising only days away, the Chinese regime was shaken by student protests at Beijing University. The demonstrations were in response to the recent murder of 19-year-old student Guo Qingling, who was raped and killed after she was unable to find a bus home.

World Notes

Israeli troops pull out

Hezbollah fighters drove shantytown tents from village to village as they celebrated Israel's sudden departure from south Lebanon. Hezbollah had occupied a deep stretch of its northern neighbor for 22 years, and its north pulled six weeks ahead of schedule ended what

Prime Minister Ehud Barak said had been "tragedy" for his country. Israel had initially announced it would pull its troops out of the 24-km buffer zone in July, but the sudden collapse of its ally, the South Lebanon Army militia, hastened its withdrawal. As many as 1,500 soldiers and civilians were imprisoned by the Syrian-backed Lebanese government. Another 7,000 refugees fled to Israel, where they are seeking asylum.

Emboldened, Hezbollah guerrillas threatened to continue fighting if Israel did not withdraw from its zone



Send-off in south Lebanon, a 22-year occupation.

known as the Shebaa Farms—a disputed plateau near the Golan Heights that Israel seized from Syria in the 1967 Middle East war and over which Lebanon claims sovereignty. But Barak warned both Hezbollah and the Lebanese government that any attack on Israel from Lebanon would now be viewed as an "act of war." No target in Lebanon would be immune, he said in a video address to Syria, which has 35,000 troops in Lebanon. But Barak also called for peace "immediately," he said, "on Israeli land."

China moves closer to the WTO

China hailed as "win" as U.S. House of Representatives vote on resolving trade tensions with the Asian giant and paving the way for its entry into the World Trade Organization. The legislation, which passed by a comfortable 237-to-197 vote, was a major victory for President Bill Clinton, who wanted China's entry into the WTO to be a defining element of his presidency. Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji also hailed his position on the vote and may have been forced to resign if it had failed. The U.S. Senate is now expected to pass the legislation.

Media deaths in a danger zone

Frenchie and colleagues observed a martyr's silence in honor Kurt Schick, 55, a reporter with Reuters news agency, and Miguel Cal Momo de Mora, 32, a consultant for Associated Press Television News, who were killed when rebels ambushed their vehicles in Sierra Leone. Schick

had covered the Gulf War and the Bosnian conflict. Cal Momo de Mora had also covered the Balkans and Chechnya. Both died after crossing under fire near Bagby Junction, about 80 km east of the capital of Freetown. Two other Reuters journalists, South African correspondent Mark Chisholm and Greek photographer Yannis Petrakis, escaped with slight injuries. Four government soldiers also died in the zone.



Lafontaine (right) looks over legal papers with Bodard, no knowledge of the market

wealth for Bama Roy and around more than \$1 million in the stock market. The account was set up as non-discretionary, meaning that Roy had to confer with Lafontaine over each transaction. With a Grade 4 education and no knowledge of the stock market, Lafontaine relied on Roy. "I didn't know any company I didn't know anything," says Lafontaine, who was trained to learned from his audience in 1986 that Roy, who moved to Prudential-RBC that year, was managing the portfolio on margin and making some speculative investments. Lafontaine's daughter wrote Roy a series of letters directing him to make safe investments and to sell certain shares. But when he closed his account in the spring of 1990, Lafontaine had lost hundreds of thousands of dollars.

The initial trial judge ruled that Roy failed his basic obligation to know his client by ignoring Lafontaine's objective, "which was to establish a retirement fund for himself after a lifetime of hard work." At issue before the Supreme Court was whether Roy and Prudential-RBC's liability ended there or if they owed Lafontaine more. The Quebec Court of Appeals ruled that it ended there after they received a May, 1989, letter from the daughter, because Lafontaine had sufficient information to close the account and stop the hemorrhaging. But the Supreme Court disagreed, ruling it owed only

Arnoeff, a Montreal lawyer who represented them in the lawsuit, notes that the Lafontaines held onto a particular block of shares after May, 1989, "but when it went south, when the price fell off, then they complained." Lafontaine's lawyer, Serge Lévesque, believes the court created a precedent by ruling that Roy effectively managed the portfolio on a discretionary basis.

Other investors are listening. One is from St. Basil, founder of the Markham, Ont.-based Small Investor Protection Association, who has already spent more than \$80,000 on a four-year legal battle. He accuses his former broker of "clearing his account"—executing transactions for the sake of earning commissions—as well as putting the account in margin and buying inappropriate securities. A trial date still hasn't been set.

Bodard contends that a federal securities regulator is needed because none of the current industry groups have the power to order restitution. And in a report on investment funds for Industry Canada last year, Ernest O'Brien Securities Commission member Gilles St-Onge called for a better system of investor redress. "What I think is a real industry problem is the time that it takes to address consumer/investor complaints," says St-Onge. For disputes involving amounts up to \$100,000, the Investment Dealers Association of Canada often broking arbitration as an alternative to litigation. But St-Onge believes that arbitrators "usually work best when parties are basically of equal strength."

Does the United States—with its federal regulators, the Securities and Exchange Commission—offer better protection to investors than Canada? "I think a perception that they are better protected—I have my doubts," says St-Onge. But Tom Delaney, a Toronto mutual funds dealer who chairs the financial services committee of the Consumers' Association of Canada, believes the SEC is far more effective because it "trifles with error into the hearts of people in our industry." He would also like to see an independent ombudsman for investors in Canada instead of using the IIDA. "It's like putting General Motors as chair of road safety."

Keeping watch

What can investors do to make sure their brokers are handling their investments properly? Advice from experts:

- Ensure that you and your broker have a written statement of investment goals and performance benchmarks.
- Check your account statement. Is a non-discretionary account, make sure all transactions were authorized.
- Choose your broker carefully. Look for professional qualifications. Don't use a friend or relative.

Source: Securities Canada, Ontario Securities Commission, Investment Dealers Association, IIDA

The ruling certainly reinforces for brokers the cardinal "know your client" rule. When clients open brokerage accounts, they sign a form outlining their investment objectives. Disputes between the two often revolve around comprehensiveness by investors about unanswerable questions. "Stocks fell every day," says Mass. "Brokers generally will not be blamed for bad advice, but where they had advice inconsistent with the client's objectives, brokers will be blameworthy."

Roy, who now works as a broker in Florida, always maintained he acted on Lafontaine's instructions (Prudential no longer operates a retail brokerage in Canada). Edward

In his kitchen, Lafontaine can look out across the street at the company he helped build up over 42 years. He and Bodard, who have nine children, continue to live quiet lives in their comfortable grey-stone home. They have no plans to splash with their newfound money. "We'll lead the same lifestyle," insists Bodard. Lafontaine isn't sure if he will invest in the stock market again. But he does have a simple piece of advice for other investors: read cautiously—and don't sign anything without talking to a lawyer. ■

Suing Your Broker

An investor's \$2-million legal victory puts new pressure on advisers

By Brenda Brannan in Montreal

When Armand Lafontaine decided to sue his stockbroker in 1991 for mismanaging his investment nest egg, the Quebec businessman found himself caught up in a marathon legal struggle. When the case finally made it to trial in 1996, Lafontaine focused on the first day and spent a few days in hospital. His battle against broker John Roy and Prudential-RBC Corrodon Inc. Canada Ltd. eventually wound up at the Supreme Court of Canada last November. Lafontaine, 71, now retired and suffering from Parkinson's disease, travelled to Ottawa to attend the hearing. His attorney at last paid off. In early May, the court ordered both parties to pay Lafontaine some \$2 million, including nine years of interest. Recently, at his Saint-Apollinaire home near Quebec City, an emotional Lafontaine wore a radiant smile, basking in the victory. But when he reflected the ordeal, he started to weep. "We never gave up," said his wife, Isabelle Bodard, 67. "It's a good thing," added Lafontaine, "that I'm a loss."

His hard-fought victory and hefty award brought chaos from many investors across the country—and drew keen scrutiny from brokerage firms. With a rising number of Canadians investing in the stock market, Lafontaine's case served as a cautionary tale for investors and financial advisers. Some observers predict it will spur more complaints and legal action against the country's 20,000 brokers. Darryl Mann, a Toronto lawyer who specializes in securities cases, says increasingly savvy investors, aware of large court awards, are "becoming more inclined to exercise their rights and seek recourse." Brokers, adds Mann, are taking active steps to increase their proficiency. Prominent Montreal investment counsellor Stephen Jankowsky, who appeared as an expert witness for Lafontaine in the original trial, says that since the recent decision he has received similar requests from others suing their brokers.

Lafontaine's disastrous foray into the stock market began when he sold the successful window and door business that he set up with his brother. In 1987, he met with Roy, who then



Deirdre McMurdy

Shunning the 'D' word

At first glance, it is simply another irrational market paradox: just when many North American companies are reporting stronger-than-expected first-quarter earnings, stock markets have stumbled badly. In part, the sharp sell-off in equities reflects investors' growing discomfort with the steady rise of interest rates in Canada and the United States. It is also a function of a new, widespread skepticism about the near-term future for high-flying technology stocks. But for many professional investors, there is another factor in the mix: a backlash against the relentless pace of corporate mergers and acquisitions—and their potentially explosive impact on the financial stability of a wide array of companies.

For the past several years, a record number of corporations have aggressively sought growth at premium prices, frequently using their market-inflated shares as currency. Mergers and acquisitions have generally been acknowledged as the cheapest, fastest way to achieve several strategic ends simultaneously: expanding into new markets, building market share, ensuring economies of scale or securing the latest technology. The appeal of big-ticket transactions has extended from Old Economy manufacturers and resource producers to cutting-edge high-tech ventures. And for the most part, these deals have been embraced with gaudy statistics about potential synergies and savings.

Increasingly, however, it has become apparent that these benefits are harder to realize in real life than they are on paper. Following their merger merger earlier this year, employees at Air Canada and Canadian Airlines are now openly enmeshed in a bitter fight over seniority within their combined ranks. If Air Canada pilots follow up on their threats to strike and Canadian pilots cross their picket lines to work, the merged divisions could become even deeper and more costly. At the same time, the Toronto Dominion Bank recently allowed that it may take longer than the three years it initially estimated to blend in the acquired assets of Canada Trust. And it has also become less clear what the core of this cultural and physical process may ultimately be for TD Bank—or how much of Canada Trust's retail client base can be retained. Similarly, BCE Inc.'s future profit stream for its most recent major purchase, long-distance carrier Telcelglobe Inc., have already been revised downward.

Part of the problem is that the emotional thrill of the chase tends to blind senior management to some of the more obvious pitfalls of a deal they are pursuing. Consider the case of Tascam Corp.'s failed attempt to take over rival newsgroup firm San Media Corp. last year. As that drama unfolded, Tascam slipped as well as it did, even before

Quebecor Inc.—the ultimate victor—surfaced with an offer. In many cases, this dynamic is fuelled by corporate finance advisors who only collect their full set of fees if a deal is completed. Layered on top of that is management's relentless quest for bigger returns and, in highly competitive capital markets, for new ways to attract the attention of large institutions.

However, the past history of growth by acquisition—whether funded by debt or equity—is not very encouraging for investors. Within Canada, the list includes such notorious crash-and-burn examples as Dome Petroleum Ltd., the Lomax Group Inc., Philip Services Corp. and Laidlaw Inc. Each of these ill-fated companies embarked on ambitious campaigns using borrowed money to finance corporate growth. Where debt is used to fund such splashy deals, service of that debt tends to gobble up cash flow—especially in an environment where interest rates are on the rise. This squeeze in turn inhibits the realisation of the forecasted economies of scale.

But when equity is used as currency in a big purchase, over the long-term it can act like a time bomb. Tally up, the account can grab cash flow and the illusion of performance. But sustaining their results is a huge challenge. It can dilute earnings and, particularly if the stock of the purchaser declines in value—as in the case of BCE's acquisition of Telcelglobe—the average dividend for a deal can quickly become negative and write off its own costs to realize. "People get dazzled by the short-term growth momentum," explains portfolio manager Richard Stone, president of Stone & Co. Ltd. in Toronto. "The realities pop in earnings is not false, but it's absolutely not sustainable in most cases."

Analyst Jeremy Borge of TD Securities, who focuses on the dual-driven telecommunications business, says that as long-term companies within a sector are playing the M&A game, the consequences tend to be overlooked. But as interest rates rise and investors begin to review their equity holdings closely, the distinction between organic and acquired growth takes on a new significance. Coca Systems of California, which has made 35 acquisitions over the past year, has recently attracted serious criticism for its heavy reliance on purchased expansion.

To what extent wobbly corporate balance sheets continue to undermine the resilience of stock markets will become more apparent over the next quarter. Already, investors' scepticism is deeply divided on whether the recent, steadily downward correction is a serious correction. Even so, one thing is certain: for sketchy investors, "debt" is quickly becoming another four-letter word.

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ATI takes a dive

The shares of Marlboro, Ont.-based ATI Technologies Inc., one of the world's biggest makers of computer graphics equipment, took a beating after the company warned that it will post a loss in the third quarter. Its shares tumbled the week down 45 per cent, at \$13.90. Company officials blamed severe price competition and a global shortage of components.

Microsoft's reckoning

The judge in the Microsoft Corp. antitrust case shocked the participants by abruptly calling an end to the pesky phase of the proceedings. U.S. District Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson, whose decision is due soon, suggested that uplisting the giant software maker into three would be preferable to dividing it into two, as the U.S. justice department has proposed.

Oilpatch turmoil

Ranger Oil Ltd. of Calgary failed to obtain a court order blocking a hostile takeover bid from Panhandle Energy and Resources Ltd. of New York City. Ranger had alleged that the principals of Panhandle violated insider trading rules when they accumulated a five-per-cent stake in Ranger earlier this year. Ranger's board, which put the company up for sale in April amid shareholder discontent, opposes the leveraged bid from Panhandle, which is about a 10th Ranger's size.

Ford buys Land Rover

Ford Motor Co. confirmed it will buy British-based Land Rover from British-based Rover from British-based Rover AG (BMW) for \$4.2 billion. The acquisition is the latest addition to Ford's luxury-car lineup, which includes Volvo, Jaguar, Aston Martin and Lincoln.

Rail alliance

Canadian Pacific Railway Co. teamed up with three large U.S. railroads to invest in Amtrak Inc., which co-ordinates transportation services over the Interstate. CP Rail and its new partners have lobbied against the proposed \$8.7 billion merger of Canadian National Railway Co. and Burlington Northern Santa Fe Corp. of Fort Worth, Tex.

Business Notes

Brains: small drain, big gain

Statistics Canada

confirmed that Canada is losing large numbers of highly qualified professionals to the United States. But the federal agency also reported that the brain drain is more than matched by an influx of highly-qualified immigrants from other countries. The report estimates that the flow to the United States tapered up to 12,000 in 1991 and as high as 23,000 in 1997. It also found, however, that for every person with a degree that Canada loses to the United States, Canada gains four from elsewhere, including at least one with postgraduate qualifications.



Nurse in Ontario, Canada

Members of the health professions and the business community have long warned that Canada is losing its best minds because of uncompetitive salaries, high taxes and especially inadequate investment in research and advanced facilities. It can be problematic to rely on immigrants to fill the gaps, they say, since many lack the North American credentials necessary to practice their profession in Canada. The Statistics Canada study confirmed the medical exodus. The annual outflow of doctors and nurses to the United States is equivalent to about a quarter of the number who graduate each year.

A huge airline gets even larger

Chicago-based United Airlines Inc., the world's largest carrier, is taking over US Airways Group Inc. of Arlington, Va. The \$5.5-billion deal will create a giant transportation with 145,000 employees and 900 airports. By combining the planned merger of Air Canada and Canadian Airlines International Ltd. has boosted Air Canada's fleet to 370 and employees to 60,000. The U.S. deal passes regulatory hurdles. Air Canada customers will likely gain better access to American destinations; the airline already has an oneworld code-sharing pact with United.

Financial Outlook

The prices Canadian manufacturers pay for key raw materials fell six per cent in April, a welcome sign and generally rising prices. Rising costs for

crude oil were the main factor, taking the material fuel category down by 15.5 per cent. But even with April's downturn, the raw materials price index is still up nearly 20 per cent on a year-over-year basis, again largely because of crude oil prices. They are still nearly 50 per cent higher than they were last April.

Derek Burleton, senior economist at TD Economics, believes the big jumps in raw materials prices are over and that Canada can expect to see those prices rising far more gradually for the rest of the year—good news for the export-driven economy.





Religious butcher does though park doing the work of at least four people

A better way to get back bacon

Work in slaughterhouses is difficult and dangerous, and employee turnover is high. So a Quebec government agency is promoting a robot that butchers pig faster and more accurately than humans can.

The wood's job is to cut the middle pieces of a slung wood peg, slicing the ribs away from the back, which is used to raise bones. Both humans and the robot use a blade that resembles a large hairpin. But when humans do the job, they sometimes cut too deeply so that the ribs are too many and the bones too thin and fuzzy, forcing the plant to downgrade the back to lower less profitable seasons.

The insect itself would look at home in an automated car-assembly plant—except that it holds a blade as sharp as guillotine. At the most, it presses on a conveyor belt, a skin and bone scans a 256 times in 1.6 seconds, creating two- and three-dimensional images that are fed to the robot. The robot's vision system then chooses nine reference points on the pig belly and plots its cutting path. In one fell swoop, it lops off the ribs so the meat will be soft butter. The \$750,000 robot reduces labor costs by doing the work of at least four people, processing 754 pigs an hour. The government's Quebec Centre for Industrial

trial Research wants to adapt the robot, which is built under a joint venture with Hoopell Inc. in Valde Fjorstrom, Que., to handle other cuts of pork and expand into beef.

Light-speed chip

In a discovery billed as a major breakthrough, two University of Toronto scientists have produced a material that can control light in the same way that microchips control electricity. The development, by chemical physicist Saeed John and materials scientist Geoffrey Ozin, could lead to the world's first optical microchip, using light instead of electrons in tiny circuits and potentially revolutionizing communications. The next step will be to find out whether the new silicon-based material can be reliably mass-produced.

A Web AGM

A Toronto-based financial Web site will this week become the first Canadian company to hold a Web-only annual general meeting, complete with voting. Thanks to recent changes in Ontario's business laws, BrydenDexter Inc., a private company, will be able to allow its 50 shareholders to vote online on May 30 on such matters as election of directors and appointment of auditors. Chair-

man Jon Nease will deliver a Web-cast presentation from a special studio, but there will be no physical meeting, either, other than a terminal in a lawyer's office in case any shareholder needs access. Shareholders—who include tycoon Gerry Schwartz and TD Ameritrade, who has purchased 5% but the public can watch and submit questions at www.hyperconnect.com. “We think this is the way of the future,” says president Richard Nease. “You have to open up your annual meetings to the world.”

Easy to swallow

Anyone who has had a bowel and colon examination with an endoscope knows how uncomfortable it is. Now gastroenterologist Dr Paul Swain of the Royal London Hospital in Britain says he and his colleagues have built a wireless capsule endoscope that passes swallow like a large pill. The battery-powered device, described as the current issue of the journal *Nature*, measures just 11 mm by 50 mm and contains a miniature video camera. As it passes through the system, it sends pictures of the person's insides to a small monitor carried by the person. Swain says he hopes the capsule endoscope will be available within a year.

Cool Sites

The last word

Its creator calls the page *Writing Tools*, but that seems too humble. The site provides an astonishing range of 575 links to information resources, listed from A to Z. Acronyms, Index to Z for Zip Codes, and includes tabs for biblical references, dictionaries, glossaries, history and plenty of add-ons like the *Moore's Almanac*. The site, created by an Oklahoma academic, is a www.writingtools.com and directs WT back to (another excellent).

Danylo Hromashchuk and
Benon Woodward

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A woman of distinction

Sandra Gwyn brought more than a trace of dark wit to mainstream journalism

By John Fraser

When Sandra Gwyn, the award-winning journalist and author, died on Friday, it was remarked by one of her wiser friends that she had sought her final departure much as she had managed her life with style, courage and more than a trace of the dark wit she brought to mainstream Canadian journalism from her beloved Newfoundland. Although Gwyn, who first built a significant national readership in a series of penetrating profiles and cultural studies for *Saturday Night* magazine in the mid-70s, was only 65 when she died, she had been fighting cancer for several years. A diagnosis in her final year helped her show everyone who came within her orbit that the imminent threat of death was as incentive to live life full-on. To the end, she defied the predictions of doctors with the same gutsy spirit that once saw her become *Canada's Black and White*.

She was born in St. John's, in 1935, the daughter of an idealistic young colonial civil servant, Claude Fraser, and his wife, Ruth. Shorn of an dominion status due to an implacable combination of political corruption and Depression, Newfoundland had never been worse off. These circumstances, along with Gwyn's fiery disregard for conventional Canadian cultural proprieties, were crucial components in her fierce Newfoundland pride, which manifested itself throughout her career.

No one brighter or more from that province was allowed to develop their talent unassisted by her sharp, decisive eye. Whether it was the portraits of Mary and Christopher Pratt, the wicked black humour of *Code of*, or



Gwyn, a fiery disregard for conventional Canadian cultural proprieties

the books of Kevin Major and Patrick Kavanagh, Gwyn prowled her native turf, searching out talent and making sure there's of Canada took it seriously. Her essay in *Maclean's* 1997 cover package on Newfoundland was a typically lyrical account of her beloved island.

But Sandra Gwyn was much more than a provincial booster. Her two brilliant books of Canadian social history (*The Private Capital: Andromeda and Love in the Age of Macdonald* and *Lawyer and Tapestry of War: A Private View of Canadians in the Great War*) established special standards for the genre, a keen eye for perceiving gaps, compassionate insight into the almighty pieties people put themselves into, and sheer delight in all the permutations possible in social interaction.

Gwyn won the 1984 Governor General's Award for nonfiction for *The Private Capital*, which pleased her mightily, but not as much as the steady stream of acknowledgments from ordinary readers. In a moving ceremony at Gwyn's Toronto home on May 17, her 65th birthday, Gov. Gen. Adrienne

Clarkson presented her with the Order of Canada—an honour that Gwyn, the social chronicler, and authorial rebel.

Although she was published widely in Canada and internationally, she had a particularly close writer-editor relationship with Robert Follard at *Saturday Night*. When Follard's Hollings Inc. purchased the magazine in 1987, prompting Follard's departure, Gwyn was outraged. Sporting the merriment emerging from the Royal Opera House in London, she gave him a furious piece of her mind.

The other creative force in her life was her marriage to Richard Gwyn, the columnist and political biographer. Married for 42 years, the Gwyns fortified each other emotionally as well as professionally. The books they dedicated to each other tell the tale, as did the countless gatherings at their home where writers, artists and politicians mingled with gardeners and bankers. Sandra Gwyn accomplished much in her life. Perhaps her greatest accomplishment was that she gave journalism a good name. ■

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Farewell to the Rocket

For so many who saw him perform his magic on the ice, Maurice Richard was the soul of hockey

By James Deacon

In the dressing room after practice for an all-stars game at the 1999 all-star weekend, a bunch of guys who used to trade high marks were started making notes about the Rocket. Every player from that power era in the National Hockey League had a paper for the lun guy's tale. Red Kelly, Stan Mikita and old elbows himself, Gordie Howe, all remembered bruising encounters with Maurice Richard. Someone joked that he used to be able to show the scars he got from Richard, but now they just looked like wrinkle lines. That got a laugh.

They were talking about the Rocket because of a new honour about to be bestowed that all-star weekend in Tampa, Fla. For the first time, the NHL was naming a post-season award after one of its players, instead of after a former team owner or league commissioner. In the company of current and former greats, Richard stood at centre ice while commissioner Gary Bettman unveiled the Maurice Richard Trophy for the player who each season scores the most goals. Then fans in the Benetton seemed to understand the history that was being made, and gave Richard a

standing ovation. But the more yelling accolades came from his peers, full-of-furor all, who nevertheless treated Richard was singularly deserving of so rare an honour. "There might have been better players," Kelly said back then in Florida, "but no one was more exciting."

Great athletes are frequently remembered for records and trophies, and Maurice Richard, who died last week at age 78 after a three-year-long battle with abdominal cancer, had his share of statistics and silver. But the Rocket will forever be known for his heart. A native Montrealer, he was the leader of the home-town Canadiens, and to so many who saw him play, the soul of the game. He performed with a fiery passion that excited fans, and he had an explosive temper that infuriated foes. He stood up to all comers, even the league's president Clarence Campbell, who many felt nurtured the francophone star. By taking on the establishment, Richard became the champion of the Canadian fans and of all Quebecers. But as the greatest goal-scorer of his era, he was admired throughout the hockey world. And so, when he died on May 27 at Montreal's Hotel Dieu hospital with his family by his side, all of Canada grieved.

Richard grew up in the Bourgeois district of south-end Montreal. He learned the game in his backyard, playing with his brothers and his father, a railway carpenter-machinist. He became a top junior player for his neigh-



Click here from top: Richard scoring on Boston's Gord Henry in 1944; at a moment with coach Toe Blake and goalie Jacques Plante; being restrained against Toronto in 1954; a key position that excited fans, and an explosive temper that intimidated foes



By taking on the NHL, the Rocket became Quebec's champion

boardroom room, the Peapack—once season, he scored 135 of the team's 145 goals. Though a robust five feet, 10 inches and 180 lbs., he missed much of his final junior season because of injuries, and was deemed unfit in attempts to sign up for wartime military duty. For the same reasons, doctors suggested Richard was too brittle for professional hockey, but he soon proved them wrong. In 1943-1944, his final full NHL season, he scored a season-high 32 goals and led the Canadiens to a Stanley Cup victory—their first since 1931. The next season, he scored an unheard-of 50 goals in 50 games, a record that only Wayne Gretzky has ever bettered. In 1945-1946, the Habs won another Cup—the second of eight with Richard.

To slow down the Rocket, opposing teams would send out their toughest players to throw him off his game. As a result, the hook-headed Richard was frequently provoked into fighting, and was often the one who was fined or suspended. He bristled at what he viewed as the referees' failure to penalize the backers and slanders who harassed him, and apparently in the Quebec media—insinuated there was a conspiracy against his star. André Raffalli wrote in Montreal's *Projet* that the NHL's English-speaking leaders were trying to "end the reign of a French-Canadian as king of the game." After Richard called Campbell a "dictator" in a weekly newspaper column in *Samedi Dimanche*, the league forced the star to retract his tirade and cease writing the column. Richard's biographer, Jean-Marie Pelletier, later wrote that all Quebecers felt the Rocket's humiliation. "Once more," Pelletier wrote, "the English boss had sent us running."

Then on March 13, 1955, with 10 minutes left in a game against Boston, the Bruins' Hal Laycoe high-sticked Richard, opening a bloody gash on his



With ex teammate Jean Beliveau at the Forum's closing ceremonies' struggle

forehead. Laid, Richard retaliated with his fist and with his stick, and then knocked down the linesman who tried to restrain him. Three days later, Campbell suspended Richard for the remainder of the season and the playoffs, effectively ending Montreal's Cup aspirations. At a game the next night, Campbell was assaulted by some fans, the game was suspended and forfeited to Detroit, and departing spectators joined a mob outside the Forum to wreck buses down St. Catherine Street. The next day, Richard himself appealed for calm and the situation was defused.



At the Canadiens' last game at Maple Leaf Gardens, all of Canada gathered

In retirement, Richard stayed involved in hockey. He had a falling out with the Canadiens in the late 1960s, but returned in 1980 to serve as an ambassador for the team—most memorably at the Forum's closing ceremonies in 1996. *Hockey Night in Canada* analyst Dick Irvin vividly recalls the thunderous ovation Richard received that night, even when most of the people had never seen him play. "He hadn't scored a goal or played a game there in 36 years," Irvin told *Maclean's*. "And people were crying, for God's sake. What other athletes, any place, any time, would get that kind of ovation from that kind of an audience? It showed what he meant to Quebec and to Montreal. And it wasn't just francophones—he was a hero to anglophones, too."

When doctors first discovered his cancer, Richard's future looked bleak. The tumor was inoperable, they said, and unlikely to respond to therapy. At the same time, he was also suffering from Parkinson's disease and degenerative arthritis in his lower spine. But according to Dr. André Robitaille, chief of surgery at the Centre Hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal, Richard defied a horrible prognosis. For two years, his cancer was in remission, and he was able to resume his public appearances for the team. "Mr. Richard," the surgeon understated, "has shown that he has an incredible strength." He continued to show it—right until the end.

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Rutherford (left),
Piel and Longhat
a scene of celebrity

Films Cannes

Beauty at the Feast

By Brian D. Johnson in Cannes

Fifteen minutes. That's about how long it took to walk from the champagne reception at the Majestic Hotel to the top of the red carpet, even though the hotel was right across the street. French security led the way as the cast of *Stardust* disembarked past the limousine mobs, the thousands of fans thronged behind steel barricades. Cheers went up as they recognized semi-famous faces—Charles Berling, Frank Langella, Thomas Goss, Robert Legros, Camilla Rutherford. Some even pulled out the director, Quentin Dupont. But as this closing-night premiere at the 55th Cannes Film Festival (May 10 to 21), most eyes were on the young beauty in the black sequins given too much diabolical around her neck than they came with a bodyguard. Even if no one had heard of Jessica Piel, everyone could see she was a star.

The procession was stalled at the bottom of the stairs leading up to the Palais Garnier. Piel's black sequins required the man to save their costumes to the end. "Like parents, we're early," teased Arcand, as he and his crew cooled their heels. Finally given the signal, they made their way up the carpet. The legion of photographers lining the steps went crazy for Piel.

"Jessica! Jessica! Over here!" they shouted, as she worked to oblige a handful of fans with individual eye contacts. "It was a trip and a half," the 19-year-old Montreal ingenue said as a distance after the premiere. "It was really weird, all these people screaming your name. I was in the movie."

In fact, the world that Piel's character inhabits in *Stardust* has uncanny parallels to the one she fell into in the French Riviera.

Stardom may have created a star while sending up the whole idea

Arcand's black comedy charts the rise and fall of a young innocent named Tina Mesnil, who is plucked from the obscurity of a gift basket man in Cornwall, Ont., to become a supermodel. In Cannes, that's more or less what happened to Piel, an unknown actress barely out of high school who was thrust into a media vortex. Like a kid on a carnival ride, she appeared to be enjoying her time, at least for a while. To

Based on the AIDS benefit, a message sent for \$34,000

quote her character: "It was all fun, until it was not fun."

Because the festival's closing-night gala serves as a *climax* after the awards ceremony, Paré's moment in the spotlight was partially eclipsed by the stars presenting or winning prizes—starting from the regal Catherine Deneuve to the cocaine fiend, the Icelandic singer named bear across for Lars Von Trier's *Palais d'Or* champion, *Dancer in the Dark*. And with some of the audience leaving the theatre to celebrate after the awards, the house was less than packed for the premiere of *Stolen*, which was not in competition. "I was sitting there staring at about 20 empty seats in front of me," lamented Paré. The movie, meanwhile, left critics underwhelmed. Costing \$12 million, and woven from 150 speaking parts, this *cinéma* comedy of media mania may be Arcand's most ambitious work. But it isn't too substantial than his previous Cannes triumphs, *The Dérive of the American Empire* (1986) and *Jour de Meurtre* (1989), and lacks the dramatic ballast that kept the comedy in both those movies on an even keel. Filmed in English, *Stolen* unfolds in a barrage of sketches, and the central conceit—that the whole movie is shot through the eyes of the media—often seems forced.

But there are compensations: Arcand's script is peppered with witty asides, many delivered by Gibson (*Blindside* and *Gregg*), who creates a chilling portrayal of a Hollywood agent. There is peaceful dig at Paris intellectuals. And *Stolen*, which

begins with ice and ends with snow, has extra resonance for Canadians, with playful winks at Céline Dion, MacMillan, Cyran predeceasing and *Front Page Challenge*. Also, as a satire of celebrity—coming from a country without a star system, it may well have created a star while sending up the whole idea the cinema adores Paré.

Arcand discovered her last year just three weeks before shooting was set to begin, and he had to lay out a contract with another screen already agreed to play the role, a 26-year-old Canadian. "A gorgeous girl who can act as a gold mine," said Arcand, in one of a string of interviews on a media pier in Cannes. "And these were that many gold mines in the world. I saw hundreds of girls but they were never what I was looking for."

At the suggestion of *Stolen* to producer Robert Laros, Arcand had even auditioned Laros' girlfriend, who was with the producer in Cannes—Sara Lynn, a former dancer with the Jeffrey Mabe and herself a budding movie producer based in New York City. "It was quite awkward," says Arcand, "We did a long audition. But the really weird night for the part."

Paré was discovered when she showed up to read for a small role, as a V. Aside from an appearance on an A&E interview, her acting experience had been confined to high-school productions—she had played Joan in *Gael* and *Maid Marian*



in *Robin Hood*. Growing up bilingual with (two brothers in the Montreal suburb of Notre Dame de Grace, Paré is the daughter of Anthony Paré, head of the education department at McGill University and Louise Morin, a conference organizer. She once tried to become a model herself but the agency informed her she was "too fat." Once Arcand had cast her, she was put on a no-carb diet, taught to skate and, like her character, was groomed for cinema.

The director says his idea for the film evolved from wondering "where does the power of beauty come from? I always found myself completely defenseless in front of a beautiful woman. So I started looking at this idea around and eventually the person becomes a model. Then I realized that these models have become famous because of television." Arcand's ruminations about the power of beauty turned into a movie about the power of the media. But he insists it is not a satire: "I'm just telling you what I've experienced. I'm not exaggerating."

The problem with satirizing celebrity is that the morality of the end thing tends to outstrip the parody. And nowhere is that more evident than in Cannes, where Arcand held wedding up in *Stolen* as absurd as those in the movie. *Stolen* stars Laros, celebrity fund-raising events for various diseases. And the film's event in Cannes was the benefit for the American Foundation for AIDS Research (AIDS), where guests paid \$2,500 each to attend a Victoria's Secret fashion show and a dinner hosted by Elizabeth Taylor and Elton John.

At the official reception beforehand, the *Stolen* crowd rolled around exhibitors in a silent auction. Up for grabs were poems, flowers and getaways—a work on a private island in the Mediterranean area owned by Radcliffe Naupers went for \$120,000. A somewhat disheveled Swiss boy made an entrance with a cane, 84-year-old icon Gregory Peck—the subject of a recent documentary by Barbara Kopple—struck up an incongruous-looking conversation with director John Warr,

who had just premiered *Crash*. B. DeMond, a tranny actor about whom he had just had a failed Hollywood actor.

Meanwhile, Arcand, with his producer and partner Denise Robert by his side, recalled seeing some of the AIDS-related models at a New York fashion show five years ago while researching *Stolen*. "It was the night of the Quebec referendum," he said. "I was with Jeanne Becker and other Canadians who wanted to leave to go to the results. And I was saying, 'Citizens, we're seeing Claude Schiffrer naked!'"

The models parading near-naked at the AIDS-related event included Tyra Banks, Lactina Costa, Stephanie Seymour—and Herb Kline, who donated a message that William later auctioned off for \$31,000. The lingerie spectacle was like a combination of erotic strip show, rock concert and alien landing. Asked what he made of it all as he watched from his front-row seat, Peck gruffly replied: "Well, you look at their launches. But there's not much meat on the bone." Afterwards, critic Roger Ebert took snapshots of Liz Taylor and turned up



Best actor Leung: Gibson (far left), Rutherford, Langille, Paré, Arcand, Leung, Taylor (below): Arcand in a media circus

from the fact that the cast's biggest star, Don Aylward, did not show. At *Stolen*'s news conference, the filmmaker and cast on the podium were in danger of outnumbering the journalists in attendance. Laros—who has produced or co-produced every English-Canadian film officially selected by Cannes for the past three decades—could not help observing that the media response to *Stolen* was "pretty tame," especially compared with the outrage that greeted Cronenberg's *Cruel in Canada* four years earlier.

It is I am. After the premiere and the dinner, a weary Paré slowly walks down the Croisette, her borrowed Escada dress trailing along the pavement. Along with some of the *Stolen* crew, she is headed for a small Moroccan pizzeria at a restaurant on the beach. There, with a Madonna song pumping across the dinner floor, she has a few reflexes are squaring the last days of excitement from the festival. Paré does not say long. Exhausted.

The lingerie spectacle was like a combination of strip show, rock concert and alien landing

Weinstein, who revealed that Mick Jagger was to have been the surprise guest until his mother passed away.

Despite all the glitz and being featured in Cannes, the festival's main film, the film competition, remains far removed from Hollywood. Two Israeli films took the Cannes d'Or, the prize for best film feature. Another Israeli entry, *Blue Room*, shared the jury's third prize with a surreal Swedish film—her voice thicket, director Sara Malmström, 20, heavily used her acceptance speech to call for democracy in Iraq. The jury's second prize went to *Déjà vu* as *Deception*, Jang Woo's comic melodrama about baffled Chinese peasants holding Japanese prisoners of war. Tony Leung was named best actor for *Be the Man for Love*, a tale of improbably unrequited romance by Hong Kong Wong Kar Wai. And Björk's triumph with *Dancer in the Dark* confirmed a trend, set last year by David Cronenberg's joy of awarding prizes to movie actors. But this year's jury, unlike Cronenberg's, awarded controversy with choices that reflected a popular consensus.

Without a film in competition, Canada, meanwhile, had a low profile. Quebec's Gaylene Dyer's premiere, a first feature, *Les Fantômes du bois Malinche*, in the alternative Direc-

the moon heads back to the Calton Hotel.

One of her co-stars, Quebec dramatist Robert Legros, lingers in the edge of the dinner floor, overlooking the beach, and wonders what he is doing there. "I don't usually go to these things," he says. "You pick up someone. You dance. It's all very shallow. I point out that Björk is sitting at a table on the sand just a few feet away, unrecognizable in her dress of concentric stars. 'Ah, Björk,' sighs Legros. "I love Björk, I would change my religion for her"—i.e. the waste woman who could persuade him to consider homosexuality. So why doesn't he go over and introduce himself? Maybe she's dying to meet him. "Maybe not," he says. "Besides, that's not something I do."

Legros then launches into a dissertation on Iceland, explaining how Björk in the country personified, "on top, volcanic uniqueness," and how the island is blessed from volcanic sources, and there are thermal geysers with holes in the ground where carbon are cooked by the time they're picked. Then he glances over to the spot on the sand where Björk was sitting, but she has vanished into the night. ■



Here, the singer in 'Be the Man for Love' is Lynn, who's underwhelmed

Liz and Hugh say cheerio

British glam couple Hugh Grant and Elizabeth Hurley have decided to call it quits. Grant, an actor, and Hurley, a leggy model-actress, have been together for 13 merry years, low-lighted by Grant's 1995 arrest for soliciting sex from a Los Angeles prostitute. The custom split, friends say, stems from a difference of opinion over whether to start a family. Last year, Hurley—who became a household name after she wore a lardy-chore dress kept together with safety pins in the premiere of Grant's 1994 film, *Four Weddings and a Funeral*—was said to have consulted with an adoption agency. But it seems that Grant, who has made a career of playing consummate-phobic characters, is less than thrilled with the idea of real fatherhood. Life resumes art again.



Grant: Hurley (right), she also split over family issues

Theatre

The Age of Aquinas is back, baby. From July 11 to 29, *Not DZ*, an updated version of the 1958 play that celebrated hippies and flower children, will have its world premiere at Theatre Cambrian in Sudbury, Ont. How did an amateur community theatre in Northern Ontario get the opportunity to perform the play? It's fixed one of the original writers, says a matter-of-fact Mark Menowitz, 23, president of the theatre group. The company had already decided to perform *Nor* (fully clothed), but wanted

permission to replace some of the old songs with current tunes. So Menowitz contacted play co-writer James Rado, who said they couldn't change the music. "But then we ended up talking about Cambridge and Sudbury," says Menowitz, and Rado suddenly offered the troupe the chance to perform his just finished update of *Nor*, which will make its Broadway debut in 2001. "He said we sounded like 'good guys,'" says Menowitz, smiling. "And now is the cast taking the news? They are ecstatic," he says. "For most of them this is their first time acting." Break a leg.

Art

The 500 people attending Sotheby's Canadian art auction in Toronto broke into applause when Lauren Harris's landscape, *Lake, North Calderhead*, was sold to an unidentified phone bidder for \$385,950. The price for the 1930 Group of Seven painting was well over the previous estimate of \$325,000 to \$400,000.



Cruise's wild ride

M-12

Directed by John Woo

So what if Tom Cruise's mane flows through the chase scenes as if he's auditioning for a shampoo commercial? Or that he feels compelled to do a triple Lutz every time he wants to hit somebody. Or that the knife dash across his cheek looks like it was designed by Versace. Sty. Arrie, Mel—step aside. Cruise, the macho hero with the strangely hairless chest, is the new Action Man. And *M-12* rocks.

This is one case where the sequel improves on the original. After Brian De Palma's cold, machine-like *Mission Impossible*, which could have been called *Mission Incomprehensible*, Hong Kong-raised director John Woo (*Face/Off*) has designed *M-12* as a good-humored spectacle with some-of-the-art stunts wack. Robert Towne, the Riddler of screenwriters, is back, but this time he goes out of his way to explain what is going on. The plot, for what it's worth, revolves around a suave villain (Dougray Scott) who plans to unleash a deadly virus on the world and make a fortune by owning the antidote. An operative (Brian Van Hout) has had guys while seducing, and recruiting, a jewel thief played by Thandie Newton—who soon melts from female fatal to damsel in distress.

But in *M-12* action speaks louder than script. And despite the usual overkill, in a genre ruled by cliché, Woo displays surprising originality—note the jousting duel on motorbikes. The director choreographs mayhem as balletic ballet, and in Cruise he has an acrobatic star. From the opening scene of him hanging off a cliff to the kang-fu finale, the actor does many of his own stunts. And as *M-12*'s missionary man, he could have a franchise as durable as James Bond—or Austin Powers.

Brian D. Johnson



Cruise: Action Man

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(*) Works in the
Compiled by Brian Babin

Gentleman biker

In 1932, a wealthy young American decided to return home from London to New York City—by the scenic route. Robert Edison Fulton Jr., 23, the son of the head of the Mack Truck Co., got on a Douglas Motorcycle and headed east. *The Long Journey Home* (Augsburg Press) is a collection of photos Fulton took during his 65,000-km trip through 33 countries to the Pacific. (From Japan he sailed to San Francisco before continuing by motorcycle to New York, arriving on Christmas Eve, 1932.) After the well-worn Fulton ditched his formal evening clothes in Athens, he travelled with little more than a toothbrush, his camera—and an eye for unliking images from Turkey to China. Now 91, Fulton remains active as a photographer, showcasing his first solo show in April.



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Allan Fotheringham

Conrad Black's designs

It is a typical Boy Scout scene, of course. The Design Exchange, one of the old Toronto Stock Exchange. Police cars. Cape gales. Grasping, sweating photographers, apparently auditioning for the World Wrestling Federation. Much shouting and shoving. Which the big deal? One of the world's dullest creations, a company's annual shareholders' meeting, which ends with a like watching paint dry.

But this is show business with consequences. It's Hollinger Inc. That means Conrad Black and Barbara Amiel, seated by a bodyguard who weighs 300 lbs. before breakfast, having to run the gauntlet of Calgary Herald snakes on the sidewalk.

Shareholder meetings are somewhere between kissing, your sister and winning the lottery. No one wants to be there, but it's a duty.

That is Hollinger's annual convention to visiterville. This is Conrad, who quite easily could take over the roles filled by Sir John Gielgud, and perhaps has missed his true calling. David, dull lawyer goes up to "business" 16 ditches who naturally are opposed by nothing but silence. Accountants who look like mountain goats up and recommend the books be buried.

It all waits for Conrad. In a month's while. He and his wife, struggling in a marigold-yellow suit above marigold pants and epidermal birds, mutter towards their seats, the frenzied TV cameramen looking on their faces is an epitome worthy of Cancer and Cleopatra. The capture, amidst the pressings, is retreating.

Conrad is in his most dull. "The program starts in 11:30. The meeting is under, though I find the whole concept to be offensive." He follows in the same 150 minutes that "I have a few remarks to make on you."

Things are going well, is the essential message—his Daily Telegraph in London or in some profitable point in history, known as his National Post "declining simply" with a glint to be heading over by the fourth quarter.

Most interesting, despite Conrad's verbal sense of humor, is the display he displays in the back end of the 94-page annual report. He is celebrated, of course, for his collection of say-anything-when-it-can-be-said every one of Napoleon's major battles. His report is a collection of quotations of others of the same—dramatic and abstruse of his various subsidiaries. Hollinger International, Hollinger Canadian etc.—he seems to have rounded up everyone but the Pope.

There is Sir Evelyn de Rothschild, The Right Hon. the Viscount Cranborne, former leader of the opposition of the House of Lords (better than, PMO) Dr Giovanni Agnelli, head of Fiat, William F Buckley Jr, The Hon. Nigel Garg, Paul Walker, former head of the Federal Reserve Bank.

You want names? The Lord King of Warrimoo, Bob Strauss, the No. 1 lobbyist in Washington, George F. Will, Make-Joke Kinn, chairwoman of Wall Street Institute, Henry Kissinger, The Lord Wootton of Chelms, former god-friend of Mrs. Black.

His "senior international advisers" The Right Hon. the Baroness Thatcher, former French president Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, Henry Kissinger, The Hon. Zbigniew Brzezinski of Washington fame.

Conrad can be forgiven all this hubris because of his wit. Anyone who can make a shareholders' meeting fun can be forgiven almost anything. When a 45-year session of the Herald rose to give a lengthy and civil discussion, Conrad asked her to step back a bit from her floor microphone, and added, "This is an unusual opportunity, not a normal one."

When he opened a familiar face among spectators, he smiled. "Oh, Bob, nice to see you again. This is going to take some time I take it." When shareholder Bob, a regular fixture in these gatherings, went through 20 minutes of well-measured complaints on these specific points, Conrad replied, "If someone can reward me, I'm trying to reward your point."

One of his children's many failures in life was, while working in Washington, taking up the Southwestern University's idea for a five-part lecture series on how Washington looks to an outsider. I would deliver the first lecture, then introduce four other speakers of my choice.

Conrad, then just naming his career in London, was completely unknown in Washington circles and I asked if he would be interested, knowing he is the only person in the world with a larger vocabulary than Buckley Jr (now on his payroll).

He said he would be delighted, since he wanted to kill from the platform a certain too-British American correspondent for the London Observer. Also, the British Institute in Jerusalem cancelled the whole series, fearing it would become American. It is the last mistake I have made in my life.



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